

Summer Crisis Program Available to Assist Eligible Households with Utility Bills and Coolings Devices



Eligible households can receive assistance with utility bills, central air conditioning repairs, and air conditioning unit and/or fan purchases through the Home Energy Assistance Summer Crisis Program which runs from July 1st through September 30th.

Ohioans with a household income at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines and who have a member of the household who is at least 60 years old, has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last twelve months, or can provide physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for a household member's health, are eligible. Additional eligibility factors include households who have a disconnect notice, have been shut off, or are trying to establish new electric services.

The Summer Crisis Program is administered by the Ohio Development Services Agency. Thanks to a grant received by the Ohio Department of Development, the Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc., is able to make this program available locally to seniors and those with disabilities through a number of partners included in its 10-county district. They include:

Adams County – Adams/Brown Economic Opportunities, Inc.
Brown County – Adams/Brown Economic Opportunities, Inc.
Gallia County – Gallia-Meigs CAA, Inc.
Highland County – Highland County Community Action Organization
Jackson County – Jackson/Vinton Community Action, Inc.
Lawrence County – Ironton-Lawrence County Area Community Action Organization
Pike County – Community Action Committee of Pike County
Ross County – Ross County Community Action Committee, Inc.
Scioto County – Community Action Commission of Scioto County
Vinton County – Jackson/Vinton Community Action, Inc.

You can obtain an application online at the Ohio Development Services Agency's website at energyhelp.ohio.gov or you can contact any of the partners listed previously for more information. Additional information is required for the application including copies of your most recent utility bills, a list of all household members, proof of citizenship or legal residency for all household members, and proof of medical condition verified by a licensed physician or registered nurse practitioner. Applicants also need to include proof of income. Depending on your income type, additional forms may be required.

For more information, log on to https://development.ohio.gov/is/is_heapssummer.htm or call the Area Agency on Aging District 7 at 1-800-582-7277 or e-mail info@aaa7.org

QUICK QUIZ

Older adults do not adjust as well as young people to sudden changes in temperature. Seniors are more likely to have a chronic medical condition that changes normal body responses to heat. They are more likely to take prescription medicines that affect the body's ability to control its temperature or sweat. Answer True or False to the questions below.

1. *Heat stroke is the most serious heat-related illness. T F*
2. *Don't use the stove or oven to cook—it will make you and your house hotter. T F*
3. *Older adults are more likely to have a chronic medical condition that changes normal body responses to heat. T F*
4. *When perspiration is evaporated off the body, it effectively reduces the body's temperature. T F*
5. *If your doctor limits the amount of fluids you drink or has you on water pills, ask them how much you should drink during hot weather. T F*
6. *Heat exhaustion is less severe than heat stroke, and occurs when the body becomes severely dehydrated. If left untreated, it leads to heat stroke. T F*
7. *If your home doesn't have air conditioning, contact your local health department or locate an air-conditioned shelter in your area. T F*
8. *The body does not feel cooler in arid (dry) conditions. T F*
9. *High body temperature (above 103°F); red, hot, dry skin (no sweating); and rapid strong pulse are signs of heat stroke. T F*
10. *Air conditioning is one of the best protections against heat-related illness and death. T F*

KEY: 1. T 2. T 3. T 4. T 5. T 6. T 7. T 8. F 9. T 10. T