



NEWS RELEASE – Area Agency on Aging District 7

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Contact: Jenni Lewis, Community Outreach

1 Acy Avenue, Jackson, OH 45640

Phone: 1.800.582.7277, ext. 224

Email: jlewis@aaa7.org

Summer Crisis Program July 1st - September 30th

More Than 44,000 Ohio Households Served in 2024

The Ohio Department of Development and the Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7) are once again offering assistance to help Ohio's families stay cool during the hot summer months.

From July 1 through September 30, income-eligible Ohioans can receive assistance in paying their electric bill, purchasing an air conditioner or fan, or making repairs to their central air conditioning unit through the Ohio Department of Development's Home Energy Assistance Summer Crisis Program.

"We're proud to partner with community action agencies across the state to deliver this critical support during the hottest months of the year," said Lydia Mihalik, director of the Ohio Department of Development, which administers the program. "Time after time, this program has proven to be a vital lifeline for countless Ohioans when temperatures start to rise."

The Summer Crisis Program assists low-income households or those that have a disconnection notice, have been shut off, are trying to establish new service on their electric bill, require air conditioning, or those with a person 60 years or older living in the home, or who can provide physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for their health. Qualifying medical conditions can include lung disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, asthma, and others.

To qualify for assistance, Ohioans must have a gross income at or below 175 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a family of up to eight members, and 60 percent of the State Median Income for a family of nine or more members. For a family of four, the annual income must be at or below \$56,262.50.

Last year, the Summer Crisis Program assisted more than 44,000 households in Ohio, providing a total of \$13.5 million in benefits.

Starting this year, applying for assistance and managing an account will be easier than ever. A new, streamlined online portal will be available at energyhelp.ohio.gov. To get started, Ohioans must register for an OHID account, which provides a secure and convenient way to access their HEAP account.

“We know that when someone is facing a crisis, every minute counts,” said Director Mihalik. “This new online system makes it faster and easier for Ohioans to apply for help — so they can get the support they need, when they need it most.”

Registration takes less than 7 minutes, and can be completed in these easy steps:

- Visit energyhelp.ohio.gov, and click “Log into the EA portal.”
- Click “Create an OHID,” and follow the six-step account creation process.
- Ensure account security by setting up multi-factor authentication.

To apply for the program, clients are required to schedule an appointment with any of the partners listed below in the AAA7’s ten-county district:

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.

Clients need to bring copies of the following documents to their appointment:

- Copies of their most recent energy bills.
- A list of all household members and proof of income for the last 30 days or 12 months for each member.
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members.
- Proof of disability (if applicable).
- Physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for a household member’s health.

For more information about the Summer Crisis Program, and what is needed to apply, contact one of the county partners listed previously. To be connected to your local Energy Assistance Provider visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov or call (800) 282-0880.

The Ohio Department of Development empowers communities to succeed by investing in Ohio’s people, places, and businesses. Learn more about our work at development.ohio.gov.

Your local Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc. provides services on a non-discriminatory basis. These services are available to help older adults and those with disabilities live safely and

independently in their residence of choice through services paid for by Medicare, Medicaid, other federal and state resources, as well as private pay.

Those interested in learning more can call toll-free at 1-800-582-7277 (TTY: 711). Here, individuals can speak directly with a Resource Center Specialist who will assist them with information surrounding the programs and services that are available to best serve their needs. Information is also available on www.aaa7.org, or the Agency can be contacted through e-mail at info@aaa7.org.

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