



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Department of Social Services

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Crisis Intervention Funds Available for Energy Cooling Needs

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Department of Social Services is accepting Crisis Intervention Program applications from individuals and families who are experiencing or are in danger of experiencing a cooling-related crisis. Limited funds are available, and households are served on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Applications are accepted Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at reception desk 23 on the second floor of the DSS building, 1225 Ramsey St., Fayetteville. For more information, call the Department of Social Services at 910-323-1540.

The CIP fund will be in effect until all funds are exhausted or the state fiscal year ends. If a household is eligible and funds are available, the household may receive more than one payment during the fiscal year.

Benefits may vary based upon the amount needed to alleviate the crisis; however, benefits cannot exceed \$600 and/or the maximum allowed benefit amount per State fiscal year.

Individuals who apply for CIP must provide the following information:

- Picture identification for the head of the household.
- Social Security numbers for all household members.
- Verification of an energy-related crisis, such as a past due bill with a disconnection notice or verification the house has no heating or cooling source.
- Verification of all household income.

The following are CIP requirements for receiving aid:

- Income – The household meets income eligibility if the total household income is equal to or less than 150 percent of the current poverty level.
- Citizenship – A household must contain a U.S. citizen or an eligible alien.
- Crisis – A household is considered in a crisis if there is a person experiencing, or in danger of experiencing, a life-threatening or health-related emergency and sufficient, timely and appropriate assistance is not available from any other source. Life-threatening is defined as a household which has no heating or cooling sources or has a disconnect notice for their primary heating or cooling service and the health or well-being of a household member would be in danger if heating or cooling service was terminated.

Each household will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if there is a heating or cooling crisis. Once a crisis is determined, an applicant must first check for help through other emergency assistance programs, such as Energy Neighbor or Share the Warmth. If an applicant is approved, funds are paid directly to the utility provider.

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