



County of Rockland

Office of County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef

NEWS RELEASE

Date: October 13, 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HOME HEATING HELP AVAILABLE TO COUNTY RESIDENTS

Pomona, NY – County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef announces that effective November 1, 2010, Rockland County families with low incomes can apply for cash grants to help pay for their heating bills under the State's Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). The one-time regular benefit ranges from a \$40 - \$50 renters benefit to a maximum of \$600 per household for heating, depending on income and family size, and payments go directly to the utility company. Residents do not have to be facing a shut off to receive a HEAP benefit.

There is also a one-time emergency benefit available for those households that are without the means to pay their bill and who have received a shut off notice from their utility provider.

To be eligible, single persons living alone must have a monthly gross income no higher than \$2,129. Eligible income limits for large households are: two persons - \$2,784; three persons - \$3,439; four persons - \$4,094; five persons - \$4,749; six persons - \$5,404; seven persons - \$5,527; eight persons - \$5,650; nine persons - \$5,773; ten persons - \$5,896; eleven persons - \$6,029. In households over eleven persons, the income limit is increased by \$468 for each additional person. The grant for families varies according to size of household. Anyone living in federally subsidized housing or enrolled in Section 8 Voucher/Certificate Program where heat is included in the rent is not eligible.

Applications have been mailed to previous HEAP households with individuals who are 60 years and older or disabled, and/or with a child under six years of age. Persons over 60 and the disabled who have not previously received HEAP can apply by calling the County Office for the Aging at 845-364-2108.

An interview is not required for HEAP applicants who received a HEAP benefit in the 2009-2010 season and continue to reside in the same county. These residents can download an application from the Department of Social Services website (www.rocklandgov.com, click on County Offices/Departments/Social Services/Forms and Applications), complete the application and mail it to: Rockland County Department of Social Services, 50 Sanatorium Road, Building L, Pomona, NY 10970. **HEAP benefits do not begin until November 1, 2010, at which time the applications will be available to download.**

New HEAP applicants will be seen by appointment only. Appointments will not be taken until November 1, 2010. To request an appointment, call the Department of Social Services at 845-364-3480, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., or call the following outreach offices after November 1st:

- more -

- ❖ Community Action Program (Spring Valley) 352-4167 or 352-4178
- ❖ Community Action Program (Haverstraw) 429-9241
- ❖ Community Improvement Council (Spring Valley) 354-5973
- ❖ Community Outreach Center (Monsey) 356-9600
- ❖ Housing Opportunity for Growth & Advancement & Revitalization (Haverstraw) 429-1100
- ❖ Rockland Community Development Council (Monsey) 352-1400

If you have received a Termination Notice, fax the Termination Notice to the HEAP Unit at 845-364-3130. Individuals receiving Temporary Assistance or Food Stamps can either fax their Termination Notice to the Temporary Assistance Unit at 845-364-3021 or contact their worker. Outreach locations do not handle Termination Notices.

Applicants must bring proof that they are U.S. citizens or resident aliens; their latest fuel bill, shut-off notice; rent receipt or mortgage statement; birth certificates, social security and alien cards for the entire household; last four pay stubs; and current bank statements of all open accounts for the last three months. If you are self-employed, bring your last tax refund; business records, including last six months of bank statements and all cancelled checks; proof of other income, SSI, SSA, Unemployment Insurance, etc.; proof of child support; and wages or school schedule for all children in the household 18 years of age and over.

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