

Senator Lieberman's Energy Assistance Tip Sheet

There has been a tremendous increase in the number of Connecticut residents experiencing financial hardship this year due to the current economy. If you or someone you know will need energy assistance this winter, Senator Lieberman urges you to contact the Department of Social Services Energy & Refugee Services Unit regarding the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) directly at 800-842-1132 **or** you may contact 2-1-1 Infoline for a list of Community Action Agencies that service your area. Those who are homebound due to illness or disability may request that an agency representative visit their home to take their application. CEAP will officially begin on November 2, 2009. However, the Community Action Agencies are currently accepting applications for the 2009-2010 CEAP season.

The following resources may also be useful to you in your search for assistance:

- Connecticut Light & Power offers several assistance programs to customers who meet certain criteria. One of the most utilized programs is the Winter Protection Plan. This plan is available for customers who lack the financial resources to pay their electric bill. Customers who qualify will receive protection from shut-off from November 1st thru May 1st. This plan must be renewed annually and begins in October. For more information regarding this program and options that may be available please contact CL&P directly at 800-286-2000 or in the Hartford area at 860-947-2000. You may also visit their website <http://www.cl-p.com/>.
- The Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) has listed on its website the current household income and asset guidelines along with a list of frequently asked questions regarding the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program. For more information, please visit the DSS website <http://www.ct.gov/dss/cwp/view.asp?a=2353&Q=305194>.
- 2-1-1 is a free community service administered by the United Way of Connecticut supported by the State of Connecticut and Connecticut United Ways. You can 2-1-1 to get general information, or to seek help in a crisis. They are open 24 hours a day and can be reached by simply dialing 2-1-1 or 1-800-203-1234. For information on energy/utility assistance programs in Connecticut visit <http://www.infoline.org/informationlibrary/energy.asp> or you can utilize the 2-1-1 Infoline navigator to search for referrals by visiting their homepage <http://www.infoline.org/>.
- For information on other State and private energy/utility assistance programs in Connecticut please visit the Citizen's Energy Corporation Website <http://www.citizensenergy.com/english/pages/116/connecticut>.
- For a listing of federal, state, and local agencies that offer a variety of services to Connecticut residents please visit <http://www.cahs.org/publications/documents/06-8PTHPCProviderDir.pdf>.