



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

[News Releases](#) [Podcasts](#)

For immediate release
June 17, 2009

Contact: Carla Harris
(804) 726-7107

2009 cooling assistance applications being accepted

Aid available for those facing economic hardship

Richmond – When temperatures and humidity soar, staying cool is not a luxury, but a necessity for health, safety and quality of life. Now through Monday, August 17, [local departments of social services](#) throughout the Commonwealth are accepting cooling assistance applications as part of the Virginia Department of Social Services' (VDSS) Energy Assistance Program.

“This can be of great assistance to those in a low-income household. Many families and individuals may find themselves in need for the first time due to current economic conditions. We encourage them to apply,” said VDSS Commissioner Anthony Conyers Jr.

Assistance is available to households that include a child under age six, a disabled individual or an adult age 60 or over who meet income and eligibility requirements.

Cooling assistance can be used to assist families and individuals with:

- payment of electric bills up to \$475 to operate cooling equipment;
- payment of security deposits for electricity to operate cooling equipment;
- repair of a central air conditioning system or heat pump;
- purchase of a whole-house fan, including ceiling or attic fans; and
- purchase and installation of one window unit air conditioner for households without a working one.

To qualify for cooling assistance, the maximum gross monthly income for a one-person household is \$1,174 before taxes and \$2,389 for a household with four individuals.

The Energy Assistance Program is funded by the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program block grant. The cooling assistance component served nearly 50,000 Virginia households last year.

To learn more visit <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/cooling/index.cgi>. Families and individuals must apply at their local department of social services by August 17, 2009.

###