



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Deadline to Apply for Cooling Assistance is Aug. 15

RICHMOND, Va. (August 14, 2013) – The deadline to apply for Cooling Assistance is Thursday, August 15. The program helps many Virginia families offset the costs associated with keeping their homes cool and safe during summer months. Virginia's 120 [local departments of social services](#) will accept applications postmarked or received through Thursday, August 15, as part of the Virginia Department of Social Services' (VDSS) Energy Assistance Program.

Cooling Assistance is available to households with a child under 6-years-old, a person with a disability, or an adult age 60 or older living in the home who meet the program's income and eligibility requirements. To qualify for Cooling Assistance this year, the maximum gross monthly income (before taxes) for a one-person household is **\$1,245** and **\$2,552** for a household of four.

Types of available cooling assistance include:

- Payment of electric bills 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 a window unit air conditioner for households without a working one.

Those eligible may qualify for more than one type of assistance. The Energy Assistance Program is funded by the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program block grant; the amount Virginia receives to disburse to recipients varies from year-to-year depending on the appropriation made by Congress. Assistance is available until funds are depleted.

Families and individuals must apply at their local department of social services or online via [CommonHelp](#) by August 15.

The Cooling Assistance component served more than 80,000 Virginia households last year. To learn more, visit <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/cooling/index.cgi>, call 2-1-1 VIRGINIA or visit www.211virginia.org.

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