



## VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**For immediate  
release:**

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### **Help with Heating Cost This Winter**

*~ 2015 Fuel Assistance Application Deadline Is Nov. 13 ~*

**RICHMOND, Va. (October 21, 2015)** – Now through Friday, November 13, fuel assistance applications through the Virginia Department of Social Services' (VDSS) Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) are being accepted at all local departments of social services and online.

The Energy Assistance Program assists eligible households with the costs of home energy sources including electricity, natural and liquid propane gas, oil, kerosene, coal and wood. The program is funded by the LIHEAP block grant, which provides funds to states to assist low-income households in meeting their home energy needs.

“LIHEAP households are amongst the most vulnerable in the country.” said Margaret Schultze, Virginia Department of Social Services Commissioner. “Without the ability to heat their homes, many seniors and low-income families could face months of unbearable temperatures.”

To qualify for Fuel Assistance, the maximum gross monthly income for a one-person household cannot exceed \$1,276. For a household of four, the maximum gross monthly income is \$2,628. Last year, nearly 128,000 households received assistance.

“LIHEAP is designed to ensure Virginians have access to the heating assistance they need. We encourage those who may qualify to submit their applications before the November 13 deadline,” said Schultze.

Families and individuals can apply through their [local department of social services office](#). To apply online or to check eligibility for services visit the CommonHelp website at: <https://commonhelp.virginia.gov/access/>.

Watch Fuel Assistance PSA from First Lady McAuliffe: [https://youtu.be/xoV6Q\\_7pdqo](https://youtu.be/xoV6Q_7pdqo)  
(Mp4 format available upon request)

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