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**Cooling Assistance Application Deadline Approaching**

Richmond, VA (August 9, 2017) –The [Virginia Department of Social Services](#) (VDSS) is helping to provide qualifying households with cooling assistance. The applications period ends Tuesday, August 15.

To qualify for cooling assistance, a household must have either a child under six years of age, an individual with a disability, or an adult age 60 or older living in the home. There is also an income requirement for cooling assistance; this year the maximum gross monthly income, before taxes, for a one-person household is \$1,307 and \$2,665 for a household of four.

Types of 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
- Purchase and installation of a window unit air conditioner

“This program is intended to provide eligible, low income families with the necessary assistance to stay safe this summer,” said VDSS Commissioner Margaret Ross Schultze. “Elevated temperatures inside the home can exacerbate medical conditions and create life-threatening situations for vulnerable citizens. I encourage all who are eligible to apply before the August 15 deadline.”

Families who have a need for cooling assistance, but are unsure of their eligibility status are encouraged to submit an application. Local departments of social services determine eligibility based on submitted applications. Families and individuals must submit an application through their local department of Social Services or apply online via CommonHelp by August 15.

Last year, the Energy Assistance Program provided nearly 70,000 households with cooling assistance. The program is federally funded by the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program block grant. To learn more about the program, including other types of assistance, visit [www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/cooling/index.cgi](http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/cooling/index.cgi)

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The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) [www.dss.virginia.gov](http://www.dss.virginia.gov) home office is located in Richmond and administers social services programs, consistent with Federal and State law and policy of

the State Board of Social Services through 120 local departments of social services (LDSS) throughout the state. The VDSS mission is “People helping people triumph over poverty, abuse and neglect to shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities.”