

PRESS RELEASE

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WIRC-CAA Offers Summer Energy Assistance Program

Macomb, Illinois, July 7, 2010 – In response to the high summer temperatures and based on the availability of limited funds, a LIHEAP Summer Energy Assistance Program will be implemented beginning July 19, and ending July 30, or earlier if funds are exhausted.

Funds have been allocated statewide in the amount of \$10 million to local Community Action Agencies to help low-income residents meet their summer cooling expenses. The Summer Energy Assistance Program (SEAP) is targeted to income eligible at-risk households; households that contain a member that is elderly (age 60 and above) or two years of age or less (not yet three); a member receiving social security disability benefits or with a pending determination case at the Social Security Administration (documentation required); or a member with a documented medical condition, such as asthma, emphysema, coronary disease and terminal illnesses, that can be ameliorated by air-conditioning. The program's focus is electric service. The benefits will be assistance payments of \$150 to electric providers.

Residents of Hancock, Henderson, McDonough and Warren counties can call the Western Illinois Regional Council-Community Action Agency (WIRC-CAA) at (309) 837-2997 beginning July 19, for an appointment or more information.

Income guidelines: Household of one – gross income 30 days prior to application date at or below \$1,354; household of two - \$1,821; household of three - \$2,289; household of four \$2,756; for each additional member add \$467.

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