



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Joron Moore-Planter

Phone: 804-726-7934

Email: joron.moore@dss.virginia.gov

Helping Virginians Stay Warm This Winter
~ 2013 Fuel Assistance Application Deadline Is Nov. 8 ~

RICHMOND, Va. (October 30, 2013) - Applications for Fuel Assistance from the Virginia Department of Social Services' (VDSS) Energy Assistance Program (EAP) are being accepted now through Friday, Nov. 8. Families and individuals must apply through their [local department of social services office](#).

“No citizen should have to face the winter months without heat. The Fuel Assistance program can help reduce home heating costs by supplementing a portion of annual heating expenses,” said Margaret Schultze, Virginia Department of Social Services' Commissioner. “Many of our most vulnerable citizens are already struggling financially, so we're encouraging them to submit an application, as soon as possible, to their local department of social services.”

To qualify for Fuel Assistance, the maximum gross monthly income for a one-person household cannot exceed \$1,245. For a household of four, the maximum gross monthly income is \$2,552. Last year, nearly 140,000 households received assistance.

The Fuel Assistance Program assists with various types of energy sources, including electricity, natural and liquid propane gas, oil, kerosene, coal and wood. VDSS' EAP is funded by the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) block grant. LIHEAP provides funds to states to assist low-income households in meeting their home energy needs.

For more information on the EAP visit <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/index.cgi>, to screen for services or apply online visit <https://commonhelp.virginia.gov/access/>.

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*Interviews are available upon request. Contact Joron Planter at
(804) 726-7934 or joron.moore@dss.virginia.gov.*

The general public should contact their [local department of social services office](#).