



## VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Necole Simmonds

Phone: 804-726-7105

Email: [Necole.simmonds@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:Necole.simmonds@dss.virginia.gov)

### **Virginians Still Have Time to Apply for Crisis Assistance This Winter**

*~ 2014 Application Deadline is March 17 ~*

**RICHMOND, Va. (February 10, 2013)** - Applications for Crisis Assistance from the Virginia Department of Social Services' (VDSS) Energy Assistance Program (EAP) are being accepted through Monday, March 17. Crisis Assistance is designed to help households overcome energy emergencies that cannot be met by other resources. Families and individuals must apply through their [local department of social services office](#).

“We have had an extremely cold winter and will continue to experience severe weather for weeks to come. No citizen should have to face the winter months without heat,” said Margaret Schultze, Virginia Department of Social Services' Commissioner. “The Crisis Assistance program is designed to help households overcome energy emergencies that cannot be met by other resources. We're encouraging our citizens to submit an application, as soon as possible, to their local department of social services.”

An energy emergency is determined when a household has no heat or is in imminent danger of being without heat. Examples include: lack of heat, primary heat utility cut-off is imminent, and inoperable or unsafe heating equipment. Crisis Assistance may include: payment of primary heat utility security deposit; purchase of primary home heating fuel; payment of primary heat utility bill; repair of heating equipment; replacement of heating equipment; and/or provision of supplemental heating equipment/maintenance.

To qualify for Crisis 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, just more than 23,000 households received assistance.

In addition to applying through their local department of Social Services, citizens can also screen for services or apply online at [www.commonhelp.virginia.gov](http://www.commonhelp.virginia.gov). For more information on the EAP visit <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/index.cgi>.

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