



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cooling Assistance Applications Now Being Accepted

Richmond, VA (June 30, 2016) –Now through August 15, the Virginia Department of Social Services is helping to provide qualifying households with cooling assistance.

To qualify for cooling assistance, a household must have either a child under 6-years-old, 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 \$1,287 and \$2,633 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 serves 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.”

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 was able to provide 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

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The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) 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.”