



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES

**For Immediate Release**

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**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Available Now**

*~ 2016 Fuel Assistance Application Deadline Is November 14 ~*

**RICHMOND, Va. (October 21, 2016)** – Applications are now being accepted for the Virginia Department of Social Services' (VDSS) Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Through Monday, November 14, individuals may apply for fuel assistance at all local departments of social services and online.

The Energy Assistance Program, funded by the LIHEAP block grant, provides funds to states to assist low-income households in meeting their home energy needs. The program assists eligible households with the costs of home energy sources including electricity, natural and liquid propane gas, oil, kerosene, coal and wood.

“LIHEAP provides a basic human need,” said Margaret Ross Schultze, Virginia Department of Social Services Commissioner. “Without this program, thousands of Virginians would be vulnerable to freezing temperatures, unable to heat their homes.”

To qualify for Fuel Assistance, the maximum gross monthly income for a one-person household cannot exceed \$1,287. For a household of four, the maximum gross monthly income is \$2,633. Last year, nearly 120,000 households received assistance.

Families and individuals can apply through their [local department of social services office](#). To apply online or to check eligibility for services visit the CommonHelp website at: <https://commonhelp.virginia.gov/access/>.

Watch the Fuel Assistance PSA from First Lady McAuliffe: [https://youtu.be/xoV6Q\\_7pdqo](https://youtu.be/xoV6Q_7pdqo) (MP4 file format available upon request)

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