



## Cooling Assistance Application Period Underway

**RICHMOND, VA (July 5, 2023)** – The [Virginia Department of Social Services](#) (VDSS) will provide cooling assistance to qualifying households this year through the [Virginia Energy Assistance Program](#) (EAP). Applications are currently being accepted and can be submitted until **Tuesday, August 15**.

To qualify, a household must have a child less than six years of age, an adult 60 years or older, or an individual living with a disability. Income requirements, which are based on a household's gross monthly income (before taxes), can be found [here](#) (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)). Individuals and families in need of cooling assistance are encouraged to apply even if they are unsure of their eligibility status.

Assistance is available for:

- 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.

Households who received a one-time benefit of \$600 for payment of electric bills to operate cooling equipment in June will not be eligible to receive additional payments for this type of assistance in 2023.

Applications (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)) can be submitted to a [local department of social services](#), online via [CommonHelp](#), or by calling 1-855-635-4370. Eligibility is determined by the local department of social services. All applications must be submitted by Tuesday, August 15.

VDSS has provided relief to local residents through the federally-funded [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#) (LIHEAP) for over 20 years. Last year, cooling assistance was provided to over 86,000 Virginia households through the LIHEAP.

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### About the Virginia Department of Social Services

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), one of the Commonwealth's largest government agencies, is comprised of approximately 2,000 state staff who proudly serve alongside more than 10,000 employees of 120 local

departments of social services and community action agencies to deliver critical social services to Virginia's most vulnerable citizens. VDSS is committed to ensuring Virginians have access to the high-quality human services and resources needed to enhance their individual and collective well-being, and shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities. The agency provides a wide range of services and resources in the areas of food and energy assistance, foster care and adoption, child support, and abuse and neglect prevention, among others. For more information, visit [dss.virginia.gov](https://www.dss.virginia.gov).

The Energy Assistance Program is funded by the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program block grant. Last year, VDSS served over 86,000 households with Cooling Assistance through the EAP. To learn more about Cooling Assistance and other assistance programs available, visit the VDSS Energy Assistance at <https://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/index.cgi>.