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**Energy Assistance Program to Use
CARES Act Funds for Families in Crisis**

NORTH LITTLE ROCK—The Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment, Division of Environmental Quality, Office of Energy has launched an extension of the 2021 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Winter Crisis Program. The program extension will provide financial assistance to eligible low-income households in Arkansas that are in danger of having their utilities shut off because of energy bill arrearages.

The extension of the LIHEAP Winter Crisis Program will use remaining dollars from the 2020 CARES Act and will be available to eligible residents in all 75 counties in Arkansas. The program will prioritize assistance to low-income households that have not already received assistance through the 2021 Winter Crisis Program. The maximum benefit per household will be \$500, which can apply to arrearages on electric bills, gas heating bills, or both.

“We are pleased to be able to put these federal funds to use to benefit Arkansans who have been significantly impacted by the global pandemic,” Secretary Becky Keogh said. “These dollars will be employed to assure that utility services continue in low-income households, giving people an opportunity to reduce or eliminate their arrearages.”

There is enough remaining CARES Act funding to assist about 2,000 households. For more information, including application procedures, interested individuals should reach out to their local Community Action Agency. For a list of Community Action Agencies, visit <https://www.adeg.state.ar.us/energy/incentives/liheap.aspx>.

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