

News Release

Lifeline for the Empowerment and Development of Consumers, Inc.

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Home Energy Assistance Program Summer Crisis Program Set to Start July 1, 2011 June 15, 2011

PAINESVILLE, Ohio— The HEAP Summer Crisis Program (SCP) will begin on July 1st and this year applications will be processed by Lifeline, Inc., Lake County's Community Action Agency. Appointments will be scheduled through August 31, 2011, or until funds are exhausted.

The HEAP Summer Crisis Program provides assistance to low-income Lake County households with an elderly member (60 years or older), or households that can provide physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for a household member's health. These households are eligible for electric bill payment assistance up to \$175 *OR* an air conditioner if their utility bills are up to date. Applicants do *not* need to be in disconnect status to receive assistance with their electric bill. Applicants may not receive an air conditioner if they have received one in the last three years.

For the 2011 SCP, all applicants must be Lake County residents and have gross annual income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Please contact the Lifeline, Inc. Energy Assistance Office to see if you meet eligibility guidelines at (440) 350-9160.

Beginning July 1, the Lifeline, Inc. Energy Assistance Office will offer both scheduled appointments and walk-in hours each week. A limited number of walk-ins will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Only customers who meet the eligibility requirements and have all required documentation will be able to complete their application process on a walk-in basis. All others will be encouraged to schedule an appointment. Appointments can be scheduled by calling our automated appointment line at 1-866-223-1471. This line will also give callers a list of the required documents needed to complete an application. The office will be closed on Monday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

Lifeline for the Empowerment and Development of Consumers was founded in 1973 with the mission of helping Lake County residents by providing them assistance and life skills programming that is designed to increase self-sufficiency. In 1980 Lifeline became a participating agency of the United Way of Lake County, UWLC, and in 1987 was designated a community action agency by the Ohio Department of Development, ODOD.

Today Lifeline continues with the same mission of helping Lake County's low-income residents break the cycle of poverty and make the transition from agency-dependency to self-sufficiency. Lifeline's current programming includes services in the health, housing, energy and consumer education areas. Our motto is 'first to help, then to teach.' Lifeline is currently funded by the UWLC and by grants through the ODOD, the Lake County Board of Commissioners, the Western Reserve Junior Service League, the CVS Foundation, Bikers Aiding Local Diabetics and through private donors.