

LIHEAP Applications Available Now to Help Denison Municipal Utility Customers Pay Winter Heating Bills

DES MOINES, Iowa – (Oct. 16, 2017) – As winter approaches, Denison Municipal Utilities is reminding customers that applications for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) are being accepted now in Iowa for the elderly and disabled. All other qualified individuals can begin applying Nov. 1.

LIHEAP is a federally funded energy assistance program designed to help low-income families who are having trouble paying their heating bills. Last year, approximately 36,000 households in Iowa received benefits from LIHEAP. The average payment was \$440 per household.

“Winters in the Midwest are always unpredictable, and wondering if you can keep up with your energy bills doesn’t help,” said Rory Weis, General Manager of Denison Municipal Utilities. “If any customers worry about challenges paying their bills this winter, we encourage them to apply for LIHEAP or get in touch with us to learn about our payment options. We want to make sure every customer who has questions about their energy bills and costs going into winter contacts us to get the answers and help they need.”

LIHEAP funds are received in the form of a grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Community action agencies in Iowa review applications and administer the funds. Grants are determined based on household income, household size, type of primary heating fuel, type of housing and other factors to ensure households with the greatest need receive the highest level of assistance. To be eligible, the total household income for an applicant in Iowa must be at or below 175% of the 2017 federal poverty guidelines. For example, a single-person household can qualify with an annual gross income of \$21,105 and a family of four can qualify with an annual gross income of \$43,050.

Customers are encouraged to sign up early for LIHEAP to ensure they receive the assistance they need. LIHEAP application forms are available at any community action agency. For more information visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/liheap>.

What if you don't qualify for LIHEAP?

Denison Municipal Utility customers who are not eligible for LIHEAP but are having difficulties managing their energy bills should call Denison Municipal Utilities at 712-263-4154 to discuss the company's many payment and billing options, including **Budget Billing**. Budget Billing spreads your annual energy costs out evenly throughout the year, so you pay the same amount each month. While Budget Billing is not a discount program and does not lower rates, it does offer the convenience of a consistent, predictable bill.

Want to help someone stay warm this winter?

Customers who want to help those in need stay warm this winter can donate to Denison Municipal Utilities Project Share program

Project Share raises funds for local community action agencies to assist customers who qualify for LIHEAP. Every dollar given goes directly toward providing assistance to those in need; none of the funds are used by the company. Donations are tax-deductible and stay within the benefactor's community.

In addition to Project Share, individuals wanting to support a family member, friend or neighbor in need can make a payment directly to that customer's account by calling Denison Municipal Utilities at 712-263-4154. There is no charge to either the giver or receiver for this service.

About Denison Municipal Utilities

Information about Denison Municipal Utilities is available on our website, and Facebook, which can be accessed via www.dmuonline.com.