



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 17, 2005

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INCREASED DEMAND FOR LIHEAP ASSISTANCE IN COOK COUNTY

CHICAGO, IL – CEDA President and CEO, Robert Wharton announced today a 15,000 year-to-date increase in CEDA LIHEAP applications. “So far this year, more than 65,000 households have signed up for assistance,” said Robert Wharton. Wharton added, “Relief is not good enough, we, as a country, have to make energy affordable for everyone. This (increase) really puts a spotlight on poverty.”

Cook County residents may be eligible to receive assistance under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program if your household’s combined income is at or below the qualifying levels. For instance, a family of four would qualify if it makes less than \$29,000 a year.

Some residents may also qualify for a one-time reconnection fee and deposit waiver from Illinois’ major utility companies.

The first step in the application process is to call 312/456-4100 and ask for the program requirements, types of assistance available, what documents are necessary and the closest intake center location. There are over 150 in-take sites in Cook County.

When applying for assistance, the applicants should bring the following:

- Proof of income for everyone in the household for the previous thirty (30) days to the date of the application. **Note:** If a member of the household receives TANF, you must bring the TANF card with you to apply.
- A copy of your current gas and electric bill.
- Proof of Social Security numbers for everyone in the household. **Social Security Cards or printouts from the Social Security Administration only.**
- If your utilities are included in your rent, bring proof of the contract or lease agreement from the landlord. **No rent receipts. Note:** The landlord’s contact information must be on the signed lease agreement.

Interested individuals and families should apply as early as possible.

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