



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **GOOD SAMARITAN INITIATIVE RESORES GAS SERVICE FOR THOUSANDS**

CHICAGO, IL – CEDA President and CEO, Robert Wharton announced today that LIHEAP beneficiaries can receive affordable reconnection terms under the Good Samaritan Initiative.

Effective December 1, 2005 Nicor Gas and Peoples Energy allowed customers with account balances that are too high to be covered by the LIHEAP grant alone, but are less than \$3,000 to have their service restored by paying \$250 or 20% of their remaining balance, whichever is less. Commonwealth Edison will not participate in the Good Samaritan Initiative but will instead allow its customers to have their service restored with a payment of 20% of the outstanding balance.

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.

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, lease agreement from the landlord, or rent receipts.

LIHEAP grants are awarded on a first come first served basis. Funds are limited.

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