



**RANDOLPH COUNTY**  
**Department of Social Services**

**Beth W. Duncan**  
Director

**Samuel R. Frazier**  
Board Chair

**PRESS RELEASE**

**“Energy Assistance Program for the Elderly Starts December 1, 2015”**

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has announced that the state's Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) will be accepting applications beginning December 1, 2015. Only households containing an elderly person age 60 and above or a disabled person receiving services through the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) are eligible to potentially receive benefits from December 1 through December 31.

LIEAP is a federally-funded program that provides a one-time annual vendor payment to help eligible families pay their heating expense during the cold-weather months. LIEAP payments are made directly to the service provider, such as the power, gas, or oil, company during the month of the application. The amount of assistance is based on household income, household size, and heating source.

Any household who wishes to receive LIEAP benefits must apply even if they are receiving assistance in other programs. Eligibility is determined using income and resource requirements. A household that applies must:

- Have at least one U.S. citizen or non-citizen who meets the eligibility criteria
- Meet an income test
- Have reserves at or below \$2,250
- Be responsible for its heating bills

If funds remain available after December 31, LIEAP applications open up to any potentially eligible low income household on January 1, 2016 regardless of age or disability status. Applications will be accepted until funds are exhausted or March 31, 2016, whichever comes first.

Citizens interested in applying should review the application process and the eligibility requirements for the LIEAP benefit, which may be found at <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/energy/req.htm>. For more information, please contact your local County Department of Social Services. In Randolph County, call (336) 683-8000 or visit <http://www.co.randolph.nc.us/dss/>.

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[www.co.randolph.nc.us/dss/](http://www.co.randolph.nc.us/dss/)

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