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**Households of INSERT COUNTY Can Apply for Low-Income Energy Assistance**

**INSERT DATELINE —Households** in INSERT COUNTY can apply for help covering the cost of heating their homes starting Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019 through Friday, March 29, 2019.

**OPTIONAL: INSERT QUOTE FROM COUNTY OFFICIAL**

The federally funded Low-Income Energy Assistance Program provides eligible households with a one-time payment to their heating vendor to offset the high cost of heating during the cold-weather months. Depending on the household’s primary heating source, the payment will be $200, $300 or $400.

Last year, the program provided approximately $32 million to help 128,160 households pay their heating bills from December 2017 through March 2018.

To be eligible, a person must:

* Have at least one U.S. citizen or non-citizen who meets eligibility criteria
* Have income equal to or less than 130 percent of the federal poverty limit, such as:
  + For a household of one, an income of $15,782 or less
  + For a family of four, an income of $32,630 or less
* Have resources, such as saving and checking accounts, cash on hand, at or below $2,250
* Be responsible for their heating cost

**INSERT COUNTY households who want to apply for** energy assistance can only do so in person at the INSERT COUNTY Department of Social Services office:

INSERT LOCATION

INSERT ADDRESS

The office will be accepting applications from eligible households Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019 through Friday, March 29, 2019, with the exception of DATE, when the X County Department of Social Services will be closed. Hours for the site are INSERT.

Households with a Native American aged 18 or older residing in Cumberland, Hoke, Robeson, or Scotland counties applying for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program must contact the Lumbee Tribe at <http://www.lumbeetribe.com/>

Households that include an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) living in the five-county service area of Cherokee, Graham, Haywood, Jackson and Swain counties, wishing to apply for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program must do so through the EBCI at <https://ebci.com/>. This includes enrolled EBCI members on and off the Qualla Boundary in the five counties.

**For more information on the Low-Income Energy Assistance program, go to** <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/low-income-services/low-income-energy-assistance>

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