

October Issue

Energy Assistance Program for 2011-2012

For those of you who are interested, it is time again to reapply/apply for Energy Assistance for this coming winter season. You have to reapply/apply every year and show the necessary financial information pertaining to this year, 2010. You CANNOT use financial information from last year. Following is what is needed to reapply/apply:

INCOME DOCUMENTATION:

Your MONTHLY Social Security Benefits:

Acceptable documentation would be a monthly bank statement from sometime this year showing your MONTHLY social security direct deposit. Or you can also get a letter from the bank on their letterhead stating what your monthly deposit is. If you have your check mailed to you, please make a copy of it before you cash it. Or you can obtain from the Social Security office a statement showing what your benefits are.

Retirement/Pensions/Annuities:

Acceptable documentation would be again, a copy of your MONTHLY bank statement from sometime this year showing the MONTHLY pension deposit. Also acceptable would be a copy of the pension check itself or again a letter from the payer of the check on their letterhead showing the amount of your pension check.

Veteran's Benefits:

Acceptable documentation would be a V.A. award letter for your Veteran's Benefits (including pension), a copy of the check, or a monthly bank statement from this year showing the MONTHLY direct deposit of this check.

Public Assistance:

Documentation showing benefits received from any of the following-TANF, SAGA, State Supp., etc.

Employment Wages:

Your last 4 consecutive weekly pay stubs, two consecutive bi-weekly or semi-monthly pay stubs OR, if these are not available, you may bring a statement from your employer or from their payroll department on company letterhead payroll department, stating your gross wages for the last 4 consecutive weeks. Pay stubs will only be accepted if they state your name and/or Social Security number.

Unemployment Wages:

Acceptable documentation would be form W-1107 that should be completed by your local Unemployment Office.

Worker's Compensation/Disability Insurance:

Acceptable documentation would be a Workman's Compensation statement showing benefits and period covered.

Dividend/Interest:

Acceptable documentation would be dividends and interest statements for the most recently completed period (if more than \$10.00 per month).

Rental Income:

Acceptable documentation would be rental stubs for rental income, your tenants lease, photo copies of rental checks for the last four weeks received by you from your tenants and deposited in your bank account. (Copies of these checks can be gotten from your bank.)

Child Support/Alimony:

Acceptable documentation would be a divorce decree or Family Relations Court letter stating the amount of alimony and/or child support, or a letter from Family Relations Court or your attorney if alimony and/or child support is not being paid. (Copies of checks are NOT acceptable.)

Self-Employment:

Acceptable documentation would be a notarized Self-Employment Worksheet for the last six calendar months. A current 1040 IRS form including all relevant Schedules, (C, D, E, SE, K, etc.)

Contributions from Friends/Relatives:

Signed statements from friends/relatives who are contributing to your household's support.

Strike Funds/Union Benefits:

Acceptable documentation would be signed statements on union letterhead.

Zero Income:

If you presently do not receive any income, you must complete a Zero Income form that will be provided upon request.

VERIFICATION OF AGE OR DISABILITY:

If you or some member of your family is 60 years or over, you must provide verification that identifies your/their date of birth. If you or someone in your family has a disability that cannot be verified by sight, you must have the provided medical certificate signed and stamped by a physician verifying the disability.

DOCUMENTATION OF RENT PAYMENT:

Acceptable documentation would be your lease, a copy of a check or a current rent receipt. If you live in a mobile home park and rent the land your home is on, you must also show this through the before mentioned items. You must provide the name, address and phone number of your landlord, rental agent or rental company.

ASSET VERIFICATION:

You must provide statements from EVERY institution that you or any household member(s) have an account with. Liquid assets include savings and checking accounts, bonds, stocks/shares, CDs, IRAs. Asset limitations for a homeowner are \$10,000 and \$7,000 for renters. Even if your liquid assets are slightly higher than these guidelines, you may still be eligible for fuel assistance. The amount that you are over will be applied towards your income. You must provide copies of your most current monthly bank statements, in their entirety, for all accounts that you hold. You must provide a CL&P/Gas bill from sometime this year to verify your address. The amount of the bill is not taken into consideration. This is solely to verify your address. The bill must be in the applicant or household members' name.

You must provide us with the name of the vendor (oil/wood/propane) that you use for heating. Your account number and the vendors' address is also necessary. If you heat with gas or electricity a current utility bill is needed.

For every household member, you must provide their names, birth dates, social security numbers, and their relationship to you. You must let us know their race, sex, age, student status, education, marital status, whether or not they have health insurance, receive WIC/food stamps, are a Veteran or are disabled.

If you are applying for the FIRST time, you must let us know whether you own your home or not. If you do own your home, we need to know whether or not you have a mortgage. You must let us know with whom you have the mortgage with and the amount of your mortgage. If you live in the mobile home park in town, we need rent verification for the land your home is situated on.

Once you have this information all together, please call the Prospect Senior Center (758-5300) after September 15, 2011 to set up an appointment to fill out the necessary paperwork. Applying only takes about 15 minutes. However, processing of the application usually takes about two weeks depending on the volume of applications at the time you are applying. You may apply anytime throughout the winter heating season.