

## **Households of DUPLIN COUNTY Can Apply for Low-Income Energy Assistance Starting Dec. 3**

November 26, 2018 —Households in DUPLIN COUNTY containing a person aged 60 or more, or someone receiving disability benefits and services through the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services can apply for help covering the cost of heating their homes starting Monday, Dec. 3. All households can apply from Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019 through Friday, March 29, 2019.

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

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

DUPLIN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
423 N MAIN ST, KENANSVILLE, NC

The office will be accepting applications from households with a person aged 60 or more, or someone receiving benefits from the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services from Monday, Dec. 3, through Monday, Dec. 31, with the exception of December 24, 25 & 26, when the Duplin County Department of Social Services will be closed. Hours for the site are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. All households may apply from Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019 through Friday, March 29, 2019.

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>