



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

May 8, 2020

CEDA ANNOUNCES THE LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP) REMOTE APPLICATION PROCESS AVAILABLE IN COOK COUNTY

Services are available to Cook County residents who are in need of utility bill assistance. This new process will allow potential clients to apply for services over the phone.

The application period has been extended to June 30, 2020.

APPLY FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE TODAY

Cook County, IL –The Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc. (CEDA) is still accepting applications for LIHEAP assistance. , As we continue to shelter in place and adapt to the COVID-19 reality, the LIHEAP application period has been extended to June 30th.

“We want eligible Cook County residents to utilize LIHEAP to help reduce the financial strain they are facing so those dollars that may have been used for an energy bill can now pay for other essential needs,” said Harold Rice, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer, CEDA. “Although energy providers may not be shutting off utilities at the present time, it is very important for residents to contact us if they have received a notice to prevent service disconnection at a later date.”

If you or someone you love is looking for services:

- **What is it?** Utility bill assistance, gas, delivered fuel, and electric, for income eligible households. The available programs include, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), ComEd Residential Special Hardship, and Peoples Gas Share the Warmth.
- **How does it help?** Programs are designed to assist income-eligible households with energy costs by making a payment directly to the utility company(s) on behalf of the households.
- **How does it work?** To be eligible, households must meet the requirements of each program, including the income guidelines. Households must be able to provide all required supporting documentation. Review our Important Things to Know Before you apply: <https://www.cedaorg.net/EnergyAssistance2020> to learn more.
- **What do people need to do to receive services?** Contact one of our Partner Intake Sites to schedule an appointment. The Site list can be found at <https://www.cedaorg.net/2020IntakeSites>
- **What if I applied already?** Households that have applied for LIHEAP as of October 1, 2019 or after and have an outstanding balance may apply again and may receive further assistance at this time.



If you have completed an application, you can check the status of your LIHEAP application by visiting <https://www.cedaorg.net/LIHEAPApplicationStatus>.

Visit CEDA's website at www.cedaorg.net, or like us on Facebook @CEDAGoGreen. You can also contact CEDA's toll free number at (800) 571-CEDA (2332). Due to the overwhelming need for utility bill assistance, wait times may be long.

Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc., is a private, nonprofit providing community and economic development programs and direct human services that address the needs of low-income residents and communities in Cook County, Illinois. Our mission is to work in partnership with communities to empower individuals and families to achieve self-sufficiency and improve their quality of life.

CEDA is comprised of five program areas: Family Support and Community Engagement (FSACE) Program, Energy Services, Housing Services, Home Weatherization and Women Infants and Children (WIC) Services.

Our programs:

- Reduced the energy burden of 144,342 households
- Improved the nutritional status of 58,700 residents through creating access to healthy food
- Assisted 422 household to make progress on the self-determined goals to financial stability
- Helped 94 unemployed adults find jobs

For the past 55 years, we have been a trusted source of support for many individuals in Cook County. Currently, we provide support to approximately 360,000 residents living in poverty each year. Through sponsoring or managing over 28 distinct services and strategies for these individuals facing the hardships of poverty, our goal is to improve community conditions and ensure our neighbors can reach their fullest potential. Learn more by visiting our website at www.CEDAorg.net.