



**NEWS**

**October 28, 2008**

Contact: Laurie Petrie, Communications Director, 513-345-3393

**Applications are now available for seniors needing heating bill help**

For people with low or modest incomes, high energy prices are a frightening prospect as we head towards cold weather.

But help is available through the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) which is administered by the Ohio Department of Development through local Community Action Agencies. The program helps low-income Ohioans pay their home heating bills.

HEAP is available in two types: regular and emergency. People can find out whether they may be eligible by completing an application. Although HEAP is for low income utility customers of any age, Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio (COA) is involved in the program by providing information and applications to seniors

Last year, COA and area senior centers provided information or assistance with HEAP applications to more than 750 older and disabled adults.

Here are details of the program:

- Applications for seniors are available from Council on Aging and may be submitted anytime from now through April 30, 2009.
- HEAP is available for residents of Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton and Warren counties.
- To receive an application, call the numbers below, depending on where you live:  
Butler County:  
    Hamilton – (513) 867-1998  
    Middletown – (513) 217- 2481  
Clermont County: (513) 732-2277 (select option 3)  
Clinton County: (937) 382-1234  
Hamilton County: (513) 345-8643  
Warren County: (513) 695-2295
- HEAP is available only to adults with low incomes. For example, individuals may qualify with annual incomes of up to \$18,200, or couples with annual incomes of up to \$24,500.
- HEAP is available to help pay bills for gas or electric heat, home heating oil, or home weatherization.

- In-home help with completing an application is available for those who are homebound and disabled.
- For more information, call 1-800-282-0880. TDD line for hearing impaired clients, call 1-800-686-1557.

### **About Council on Aging**

Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio (COA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for older adults and their families.

Since 1974, COA has been designated by the state of Ohio as the Area Agency on Aging for Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton and Warren counties. COA plans, coordinates, funds and administers programs for an area that is home to more than 252,000 adults age 60 and older.

COA promotes choice, independence, dignity and well-being of older adults through a range of services that help them remain in their homes for as long as possible.

One call to COA links people to the wide variety of agencies, information and programs that serve older adults.

### ***For Answers on Aging:***

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