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State Extends Energy Assistance Program *Winter Crisis Program to continue until April 15*

Today the state announced that the Home Energy Assistance Winter Crisis Program will extend its application deadline from March 31 to April 15, 2014. The program provides assistance to eligible households that are threatened with disconnection, have been disconnected or if their tank contains 35 percent or less of its capacity of bulk fuel.

“Our heating bills for these cold winter days will come due in March/early April. Extending the Winter Crisis Program allows Ohioans, who didn’t think they would need help, the opportunity to receive it,” said David Goodman, director of the Ohio Development Services Agency.

Since the start of the program in November 2013, more than 116,000 Ohioans have participated in the program. To qualify for the Winter Crisis Program a household must be at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. For a family of four the annual income must be at or below \$41,212.50. Individuals interested in receiving assistance must have a face-to-face interview at their Winter Crisis Program provider. A list of providers by county can be found [here](#).

Ohioans can call the toll-free hotline at (800) 282-0880, Monday through Friday (hearing impaired customers may dial (800) 686-1557 for assistance) or visit energyhelp.ohio.gov for more information about the Winter Crisis Program.

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