



# Grandparents Corner

*October 2015*

## *Emergency Assistance Programs*

There are two different HEAP Programs - HEAP and Emergency HEAP (E-HEAP)

### Emergency Assistance Programs

• HEAP is an assistance program that provides a one-time benefit annually to your primary heating source account. For example, if you heat your home with a gas furnace, a credit will be provided to your gas bill. This program helps pay a portion of a consumer's winter heating bill. Consumers can use HEAP one time per winter heating season. The amount of aid received varies and is determined by the following criteria:

- √ Household income at or below 175 percent of federal poverty guidelines
- √ Number of people in household
- √ Cost of primary heating fuel or bulk fuel supplied
- √ Amount of aid received from federal grants
- √ Geographic region of the state.

### How to Apply for HEAP

Applications can be submitted through May 31, 2016. Consumers should fill out the application completely and send it with a copy of their most recent energy bill, and proof of income for the past 12 months for all members of the household 18 years of age and over to: HEAP, P.O. Box 1240, Columbus, Ohio 43216. Applications can be obtained from the following locations:

- √ Community Action Agencies
  - √ County Department of Jobs and Family Services
  - √ Area Agency on Aging
  - √ Ohio Development Services Agency (HEAP office 1-800-282-0880 or 614-644-6600)
- Website - [www.energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://www.energyhelp.ohio.gov)

### Emergency HEAP (E-HEAP)

E-HEAP provides payment aid once per heating season to consumers who:

- √ Have been disconnected or received a shut-off notice; or
- √ Have less than a 10-day supply of bulk fuel

### How to apply for E-HEAP

When the applications are being accepted after November 1, consumers must:

- √ Complete an application in person at a local Community Action Agency
- √ Be an adult member of the household
- √ Interview one-on-one with an assisting agency
- √ Submit proof of income for all household members 18 years of age and older
- √ Submit shut-off notice and most recent utility bill
- √ Provide Social Security numbers for all household members two years and older
- √ To receive E-HEAP, households served by a state-regulated utility must also sign up for a payment plan, such as the percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus (PIPP Plus)

### Income Guidelines 2015 HEAP & E-HEAP

Size of household:

1 - \$20,597.50; 2 - \$27,877.50; 3 - \$35,157.50; 4 - \$42,437.50; 5 - \$49,717.50; 6 - \$56,997.50

For households with more than six members, add \$7,280 per person.

Source: [www.ohioconsumerscounsel.org](http://www.ohioconsumerscounsel.org)

*People over the age of 80 die in fires at a rate three times higher than the rest of the population. Many older people live alone and when accidents happen, others may not be around to help. Read the issue and answer True or False to the questions below.*

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1. Caregivers can prevent tragedies by reducing the chance of the person in their care being killed or injured by a fire. T F
2. Smoke alarms can double the chance of surviving a fire by providing early warning and time for escape. T F
3. There are three essential items by your bedside: your eyeglasses, a whistle, and a telephone. T F
4. It is not important to have a smoke alarm immediately outside your sleeping area. T F
5. Unsafe smoking habits are the leading cause of fire deaths among older Americans. T F
6. If the alarm frequently goes off from cooking fumes or bathroom steam, it is okay to take out the batteries and disable it. T F
7. Special fire warning devices are available, such as smoke alarms with a vibrating pad or flashing light for the deaf and hard of hearing. T F
8. Never allow smoking near an oxygen tank. T F
9. Poor vision, limited mobility, hearing loss, a reduced sense of smell, medication side effects (drowsiness), and dementia all contribute to the danger of fire for seniors. T F
10. If a person with dementia or Alzheimer's disease lives in the house, there is no need to take additional fire safety precautions. T F

**KEY:** 1. T 2. T 3. T 4. F 5. T 6. F 7. T 8. T 9. T 10. F