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PRESS RELEASE

Nov. 21, 2018
For Immediate Release
Contact Pender County DSS Director Wes Stewart, 910-259-1300

Pender County households can apply for low-income energy assistance starting Dec. 3

PENDER COUNTY - Pender County households 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," said Wesley Stewart, Department of Social Services director.

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

Pender County households that want to apply for energy assistance must apply in person at the Pender County Department of Social Services office:

PENDER COUNTY DSS	HAMPSTEAD ANNEX
810 S WALKER STREET	15060 US HIGHWAY 17
BURGAU, NC 28425	Hampstead, NC 28443
Mondays – Fridays, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Wednesdays 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Applications will not be accepted Dec. 24 – 26, when Pender County Department of Social Services is closed for the holidays. All households may apply from Jan. 2, 2019 through Friday, March 29, 2019.

For more information on the Low-Income Energy Assistance program, go to <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/low-income-services/low-income-energy-assistance>.

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