



## **Summer Crisis Program Starts July 1**

The Ohio Department of Development and Ross County Community Action Commission, Inc. will help income-eligible Ohioans stay cool during the hot summer months. The Home Energy Assistance Summer Crisis Program provides eligible Ohioans assistance paying an electric bill or assistance paying for central air conditioning repairs. The program runs from July 1-Sept. 30, 2023.

To apply for the program, clients are required to schedule an appointment with Ross County Community Action Commission, Inc. Appointments can be scheduled by calling (740) 702-7222 option 1.

Clients need to bring copies of the following documents to their appointment:

- Copies of their most recent energy bills.
- A list of all household members and proof of income for the last 30 days or 12 months for each member.
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members.
- Proof of disability (if applicable).
- Physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for a household member's health (if there isn't a household member over the age of 60).

Last year, more than 830 families in Ross County were assisted through the Home Energy Assistance Summer Crisis Program. As an agency, we take great pride in serving our families in Ross County. Our priority is to ensure that every individual feels valued and supported. We have a true sense of duty to all those we serve, and we are committed to going above and beyond to meet their needs. Whether it's providing resources, offering a helping hand, or simply being there to listen, we are dedicated to making a positive impact on the lives of those in our community. Together, we can create a stronger and more connected Ross County for all.

The Summer Crisis Program assists low-income households with an older household member (60 years or older) who can provide physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for their health, have a disconnect notice, have been shut off, are trying to establish new service on their electric bill, or require air conditioning. Conditions can include such things as lung disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, or asthma.

Eligible households can receive up to \$500 if they are a customer of a regulated utility, or \$800 if they are a customer of unregulated utilities such as electric cooperatives and municipal utilities. The assistance is applied to their utility bill, or to purchase an air conditioning unit or fan, or pay for central air conditioning repairs. Ohioans must have a gross income at or below 175% of the federal poverty guidelines to qualify for assistance. For a family of four the annual income must be at or below \$52,500.00.

Also, Ohioans enrolled in the Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus (PIPP) program who meet the above criteria may be eligible for assistance towards their default PIPP payment, first PIPP payment, central air conditioning repairs, or may receive an air conditioning unit and/or fan.

For more information about the features of the Summer Crisis Program and what is needed to apply, contact Ross County Community Action Commission, Inc. at 740.702.7222 option 1 or be connected to your local Energy Assistance provider visit [www.energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://www.energyhelp.ohio.gov) or call (800) 282-0880.

The Ohio Department of Development empowers communities to succeed by investing in Ohio's people, places, and businesses. Learn more about our work at [development.ohio.gov](http://development.ohio.gov).

**Ross County Community Action Contact:**

Emily Merritt

[emerritt@rossccac.com](mailto:emerritt@rossccac.com)

**Development Contact:**

Sarah Wickham

[Sarah.Wickham@Development.ohio.gov](mailto:Sarah.Wickham@Development.ohio.gov)