**State Representative Marguerite Quinn**

**143rd District, Pennsylvania House of Representatives**

**LIHEAP Applications Now Available for 2014-2015**

*Rep. Marguerite Quinn (R-Bucks)*

Eligible Pennsylvania residents are encouraged to apply for the 2014-2015 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), a program that helps low-income people pay their heating bills through home energy assistance grants and crisis grants.

Cash grants are awarded based on household income, family size, type of heating fuel and region. Crisis grants are provided in the event of a heating emergency, including broken heating equipment or leaking lines that must be fixed or replaced, lack of fuel, termination of utility service or danger of being without fuel or of having utility service terminated. In most counties, assistance with home heating crisis situations is available 24 hours a day.

The eligibility requirements for this year’s program can be found online at [*www.dpw.state.pa.us*](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us). After your application is reviewed, you will receive a written notice explaining you eligibility and the amount of assistance you will receive, usually within 30 days. Payments are generally sent directly to a utility company or fuel dealer and are credited to your account.

If you’ve never applied for LIHEAP benefits before, you can apply online, on paper, or in person. To apply online, visit [*www.humanservices.state.pa.us*](http://www.humanservices.state.pa.us) to fill the application out on the Internet. On that same website you can download the application, print it and fill out your information and send it in to the Bucks County Assistance Office. Or if you’d prefer to fill out the application in person, you can visit the Bucks County Assistance Office and it will provide you with one.

If you applied for LIHEAP online last year, you should have received a postcard from the Department of Public Welfare encouraging you to reapply online this year. The postcard has a pre-registration number on it, which gives the applicant access to an online application that has already been filled out with their information from last year. Clients then simply have to ensure the information online is correct and update anything that may have changed, such as an address. All online applications are sent straight to the county office to determine eligibility, thereby eliminating mail and hand processing time.

Prior applicants who did not apply online last year should have received a paper application in the mail.

The Department of Public Welfare may extend or shorten the program depending upon the availability of federal funds. For more information or to apply online, call my district office in Doylestown at (215) 489-2126 or visit [*www.RepQuinn.net*](http://www.RepQuinn.net).

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