

**Ted Strickland**  
Governor

**Lisa Patt-McDaniel**  
Director

**Lee Fisher**  
Lieutenant Governor

## For Immediate Release

January 21, 2010

### **PATT-MCDANIEL ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDING**

COLUMBUS – Lisa Patt-McDaniel, Director of the Ohio Department of Development, today announced that Ohio will receive an additional \$24.7 million in Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for fiscal year 2010. The funding is in addition to the \$220 million in HEAP funding, administered by the Ohio Department of Development’s Office of Community Services, the state has already received.

“Home heating assistance is critical for many families across the state to keep warm during the winter months,” Patt-McDaniel said. “With these additional funds for the Home Energy Assistance Program, alongside our community action agency partners, we will be able to assist more families in need with their energy costs this year.”

The Home Energy Assistance Program helps eligible low-income Ohioans to meet the high costs of home energy bills. The Program pays a one-time payment for the current winter heating season. Households with elderly or disabled members may qualify for a larger amount of assistance. A special component of HEAP, the Winter Crisis Program, is administered by community action agencies throughout Ohio. The Winter Crisis Program provides assistance once per heating season to eligible households that are disconnected, threatened with disconnection, or have less than a 10 day supply of bulk fuel.

Approximately 394,000 households were served during the 2008-2009 regular Home Energy Assistance Program and approximately 180,000 households were served through the 2008-2009 Winter Crisis Program.

Qualifying for HEAP is dependent on the size of the household and the total gross household income over the past three months, which must be at or below 200 percent of the 2009 federal poverty guidelines listed below:

<u>Size of Household</u>	<u>Yearly Income</u>	<u>Income in the Past Three Months</u>
1	\$21,660	\$ 5,415
2	\$29,140	\$ 7,285
3	\$36,620	\$ 9,155
4	\$44,100	\$11,025
5	\$51,580	\$12,895
6	\$59,060	\$14,765
7	\$66,540	\$16,635
8	\$74,020	\$18,505

For households with more than eight members, add \$7,480 per member to the yearly income.

To apply for assistance through the Winter Crisis Program, households must have a face-to-face interview at their local provider agency. Qualified Ohioans may call the Department’s toll-free hotline at 1-800-282-0880, Monday through Friday for a referral to one of Ohio’s 56 local service providers. Hearing impaired customers may dial 1-800-686-1557 for assistance. For more information about HEAP or the Winter Crisis Program visit [energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://energyhelp.ohio.gov).

The Ohio Department of Development's **Community Development Division** also administers the electric Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) and other state and federally funded programs that benefit Ohio individuals and families. The Community Development Division coordinates its programs to form a comprehensive strategy to build stronger, healthier communities throughout the state.

Working with our partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to attract, create, grow, and retain businesses through competitive incentives and targeted investments. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the Ohio Department of Development works at the speed of business to accelerate and support the teamwork that is absolutely necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.

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