

Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council, Inc., 1 Industrial Park, P.O. Box 7, Steeleville, IL 62288

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

DEBBIE THIES, ENERGY COORDINATOR

PHONE: 618-443-5231

EMAIL: DTHIES@WEEOC.ORG

JULY 1, 2020

PLEASE PUBLISH IN THE NEWSPAPER AT LEAST ONE TIME BETWEEN July 27th and August 2nd or in your next monthly publication. PLEASE POST TO ALL MEDIA FORMS YOU MAY HAVE.

+++++

WESTERN EGYPTIAN TO EXPAND UTILITY ASSISTANCE

Steeleville, IL- In response to COVID-19, and the funding through the CARES ACT, the State of Illinois will extend the duration of the program from an eight to an eleven month program this year. All income eligible households may begin to apply July 27th. There will be no priority group. Households in need of energy assistance, especially those with disconnection notices, high past due balances and the general population that have been most likely affected by wage fluctuations due to COVID-19 are encouraged to apply. Households with persons 60 or over, with someone who is currently receiving disability and families with children age 5 or under can also apply at this time. Energy assistance applications will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis through June 30, 2021 or until funding is depleted. Applications for the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) program will also be taken for eligible Ameren Illinois customers based on county funding availability. PIPP is based on 150% of the Federal Poverty Level and the number of person living in the household. A one person household limit is \$1,595 with the addition of \$560 for each household member.

In addition, propane customers are strongly encouraged to apply in the month of August when prices are their lowest.

Due to COVID-19, in-person applications at the outreach offices will not be permitted. An energy assistance application may be attained by calling the outreach office in the county which you live or complete an on-line application on our website at weeoc.org. Applicants must submit social security cards for everyone in the household, current gas and electric bills, and, total household gross income 30 days prior to and including the date of application. Income for the LIHEAP is based on 200% of the Federal Poverty Level with an income limit of \$2,127 with the addition of \$747 for each household member. Applications will not be accepted before July 27, 2020.

The Energy Assistance Program is a state and federally funded program administered for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity through Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council. The program assists households of Jackson, Perry, Randolph, and Monroe Counties whose household income is 200 percent or less of the federal poverty level. Benefits of eligible participants will be paid directly to the household's appropriate utility provider or fuel source vendor such as, electric, natural gas, propane, oil and wood.

Contact numbers for the four service counties are as follows: Perry 618-542-4656, Jackson 618-684-3341, Randolph and Monroe 618-443-5231.

Please refer to our web page at weeoc.org or call the WEEOC Energy Admin Office in Sparta at 618-443-5231 for more information.