

News Release

Lifeline for the Empowerment and Development of Consumers, Inc.

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**Home Energy Assistance Program Summer Crisis Program to Continue through August 31
July 16, 2013**

PAINESVILLE, Ohio— The HEAP Summer Crisis Program (SCP) began on July 1st and this year applications are again being processed by Lifeline, Inc., Lake County's Community Action Agency. Appointments will be scheduled through August 31, 2013.

It's already been a very busy season for the HEAP SCP. July 12, Lifeline staff took over 200 applications for assistance in the first two weeks of the program. Lifeline has also already distributed nearly 40 air conditioners.

"It's been a very busy month for the Summer Crisis Program," said Executive Director Carrie Dotson. "With the high temperatures we've been having already this summer, we've already got very long lines on walk-in days and we're expecting that to continue."

The HEAP Summer Crisis Program provides assistance to low-income Lake County households with an elderly member (60 years or older) OR households that can provide physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for a household member's health. These households are eligible for electric bill payment assistance up to \$250 *AND/OR* an air conditioner. Applicants may not receive an air conditioner if they have received one in the last three years.

For the 2013 SCP, all applicants must be Lake County residents and have gross annual income at or below 175% of the federal poverty level. Please contact the Lifeline, Inc. Energy Assistance Office to see if you meet eligibility guidelines at (440) 350-9160. Information is also available on the Lifeline website at www.lclifeline.org

Beginning July 1, the Lifeline, Inc. Energy Assistance Office will offer both scheduled appointments and walk-in hours each week. A limited number of walk-ins will be accepted on a first come, first served basis on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 8:30 a.m. Only customers who meet the eligibility requirements and have all required documentation will be able to complete their application process on a walk-in basis. All others will be encouraged to schedule an appointment.

Appointments can be scheduled by calling our automated appointment line at 1-866-223-1471. This line will also give callers a list of the required documents needed to complete an application. The office will be closed on Thursday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

For more information on the HEAP Programs, please contact Lifeline, Inc.'s Energy Assistance Office at (440) 350-9160. Lifeline's Energy Assistance Office is located at 54 S. State Street, Suite 303 in Painesville and opens daily at 8:30 a.m.

Lifeline for the Empowerment and Development of Consumers was founded in 1973 with the mission of helping Lake County residents by providing them assistance and life skills programming that is designed to increase self-sufficiency. In 1980 Lifeline became a participating agency of the United Way of Lake County, UWLC, and in 1987 was designated a community action agency by the Ohio Department of Development, ODOD. In 2008, Lifeline was designated as a mental health agency by the Ohio Department of Mental Health.

Today Lifeline continues with the same mission of helping Lake County's low-income residents break the cycle of poverty and make the transition from agency-dependency to self-sufficiency. Lifeline's current programming includes services in the healthcare, housing & energy assistance, information & referral services and consumer education & job training areas. Our motto is 'helping people, changing lives.' Lifeline is currently funded by the UWLC and by grants through the ODOD, the Lake County Board of Commissioners, the Lake County ADAMHS Board, Lake County Department of Job & Family Services, the City of Mentor, the Western Reserve Junior Service League, the CVS Foundation, Bikers Aiding Local Diabetics and through private donors.