

WEATHER PERMITTING: October 12 the Crisis Intervention Energy Program (CIP for short) will be open to those qualified, low-income households who are experiencing a HEATING related CRISIS. According to NC State policy, a household is in a crisis if it is experiencing a **life-threatening or health-related emergency and sufficient, timely and appropriate assistance is not available from any other source**. A life-threatening emergency is defined as a household which has no heating or cooling source or has a past due notice for primary heating or cooling service, and the health or well-being of a household member would be in danger if the heating or cooling crisis was not alleviated. If the temps are not below freezing, we will not be able to open the program. Each day will be evaluated to determine if a crisis could exist if temperatures are below freezing. CIP funding is open to any age that has a CRISIS in their home and as long as funds are available.

Households can apply in several ways:

1. You can apply by phone by calling 733-8230 and ask for an Energy caseworker;
2. You can ask that an application be mailed to you or;
3. You can apply online at epass.nc.gov

If you prefer to complete a paper application, you may pick one up at the agency at 175 Linville St., Newland, NC. Applications are located on the table in the hallway. You can mail or drop off your application at the drop box located outside the main Administrative building.

The LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIEAP) will begin December 1, 2021. This program is open to applicants 60 and older in December. Applications can be obtained by any of the ways listed above. For applicants that received a LIEAP payment last year and have received food and nutrition services this year, you automatically be enrolled by the State of NC beginning November 15, 2021. You will receive a letter letting you how much your benefit will be and to which energy provider it will be paid. If you need to change your energy provider, contact Alesia Calloway at 733-8249 IMMEDIATELY. If think you are eligible, and you do not receive a letter by December 1, please call the office to apply. If funding is available, the LIEAP program will be open to all ages beginning January 2, 2022. For questions you can call 733-8249 or e-mail Alesia.Calloway@AveryCountyNC.gov