



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AS IT IS GETS COLDER
“PROJECT HEAT-UP” CAN HELP**

As energy bills soar this winter, the Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP), part of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, has broadened a program to assist low-income families with their energy bills. Project Heat-Up raises the eligibility limit to a maximum of 175% of poverty level. For example, a family of six who makes a maximum monthly income of \$3,772 can receive assistance with their energy bills. This program will be in effect from January 15, 2006 to March 31, 2006.

OHEP also offers other programs to fit the different needs of others during the winter season. One of the programs is the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) that provides heating assistance grants to fuel suppliers and utility companies on behalf of eligible applicants. And the other program is the Electric Universal Service Program (EUSP) that provides assistance with electric bills. The eligibility requirements for these programs are 150% of poverty level. For example, a family of six who make a maximum monthly income of \$3,234 can receive assistance from these two programs.

OHEP is looking to help as many people as possible this winter season. For more information on how to apply to any of these programs, call OHEP at 240-777-4450 or you can go to the website <http://www.dhr.state.md.us/meap/>.