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# CABHN FEVER

## Energy Assistance - It's Time to Apply!



Are you worried about how you'll pay your heating bills this winter? Apply for **energy assistance** beginning November 1. Applications can take up to 45 days to process, but immediate fuel delivery should be available if needed. Deadline to apply is March 15, 2005 (*earlier if funds run out*). Because oil and gas prices are skyrocketing, it is important to apply early to ensure you get needed benefits. Even if heat is included in your rent payment, you may be eligible for benefits (depending on your income and rent amount).

**Apply if your income is less than the amounts listed below:**

Household Size	Monthly Income
1	\$1,164
2	\$1,561
3	\$1,959
4	\$2,356
5	\$2,754
6	\$3,151

**If someone in the household is at least 60 years or disabled, apply if your income is less than the amounts listed below:**

Household Size	Monthly Income
1	\$1,552
2	\$2,082
3	\$2,612
4	\$3,141
5	\$3,672
6	\$4,202

Apply at your local Community Action Agency or call Infoline (211) or the DSS Energy Line (1-800-842-1132) for information on the closest application site. Bring proof of income for everyone in the house and a copy of your fuel/utility bill.

If you heat with electricity from CL&P or UI, or gas from Yankee Gas, SCG or CNG and you owe the utility company money, contact the company and apply for the **arrears forgiveness program**. Arrears forgiveness is a payment program that forgives back bills in exchange for making regular, agreed upon payments. It is important to make sure you can afford to make the payments you agree to under this program.

Ask at the energy assistance site about a **repair or replacement of your unsafe or broken furnace**. Some homeowners receiving energy assistance may be able to get emergency furnace repairs. If the homeowner receives cash assistance from DSS (TFA, AABD or State Supplement, or SAGA), repairs are also available through DSS in a separate program, when necessary to allow the individual to remain in the home; contact the DSS case worker to apply.

Protect yourself from a winter shut-off by applying for **"hardship" status** from your electric and gas companies.

**Important:** If you are on state welfare (TFA), think about what you can really afford when you make a payment agreement. Your income may drop if you are at the end of your 21-month time limit or the end of an extension, and it may be hard to pay what you agreed upon. Call Statewide Legal Services for free advice (see below).❖

### Where to Call for Help...



*For further information on winter heating assistance, please call your local Community Action Agency (listed below).*

- Community Action Agencies:**
- The Community Action Committee of Danbury, Inc. (203) 748-5422
  - New Opportunities, Inc. (Waterbury area) (203) 756-8151
  - Bristol Community Organization, Inc. (860) 582-7490
  - Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc. (860) 223-2288
  - Community Renewal Team, Inc. (Hartford area) (860) 560-5800 or 1-800-798-3805; (Middletown area) (860) 347-4465 ext.223 or 224
  - ACCESS, Inc. (Willimantic area) (860) 450-7423
  - Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. (Norwich-New London area) (860) 889-1365
  - New Opportunity for Greater Meriden (203) 235-0278 (sponsored by New Opportunities, Inc.)
  - Community Action Agency of New Haven, Inc. (203) 387-7700
  - TEAM, Inc. (Derby-Ansonia-Shelton area) (203) 736-5420
  - Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc. (203) 384-6904
  - Norwalk Economic Opportunity Now, Incorporated (203) 899-2484
  - CTE, Inc. (Stamford area) (203) 352-4846

**You may also call:**

**Infoline: 211 for the closest application site, or**

**Statewide Legal Services** 1-800-453-3320 or 860-344-0380

**CT Energy Assistance Hotline** 1-800-842-1132

## Talking About Medicare

### A consumer guide

If you are on Medicare or the family member or friend of someone on Medicare, this new, user-friendly site offers quick answers to the most frequent questions about Medicare including eligibility, costs, what is covered, what is changing in the program, prescription coverage, supplemental policies, long term care and where to go for more help. Check the web site at: [www.kff.org/medicare/7067](http://www.kff.org/medicare/7067) ♦

## Oops! Correction to Food Stamp Guide

October Cabhn Fever listed the New Guidelines for the Food Stamp Program. Below are the corrected amounts. Each was off by \$1.00.

<u>Family size</u>	<u>Monthly Income</u>
1	\$1,009
2	\$1,354
3	\$1,698
4	\$2,043
5	\$2,387
6	\$2,732
7	\$3,076
8	\$3,421

Each additional person – add \$345 ♦

## Flu Vaccine Hot Line

A hot line for Connecticut residents has been established to address questions and concerns about the shortage of flu vaccine.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-800-830-9426. Callers will hear a prerecorded message from Comm. Dr. Robert Galvin. DPH staff members are available between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. to answer questions from callers in English and Spanish. ♦

## EITC Certification Test Program in Hartford Nov. 2004

The IRS is testing a new program in Hartford County **now**. The IRS has randomly chosen taxpayers who in the past claimed the EITC and asked them to provide letters or affidavits **BEFORE** they file their 2004 Tax Return to show that their child or children lived with them for more than 6 months during 2004.

If you have been chosen for this program, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT that you send in the required information **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**. (You can still file your 2004 tax return but until the IRS gets the proof and checks it, your EITC refund will be held up.)

**Do not let this test program prevent you from claiming the EITC you are eligible for!**

For more information call Info Line, 211 or the IRS EIC Certification Hotline, **1-800-294-2723**, the **Taxpayer Advocate's Office at (860)756-4550** or the **Tax Clinic at the UConn Law School at (860)570-5165**. ♦

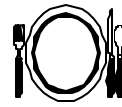


**Sign on to Fight Poverty!**

The Community Action Partnership, the nation's largest anti-poverty organization, is encouraging President **Bush to convene a White House Conference on American Poverty**.

The Partnership and its 1,000-member Community Action Agency network, have currently launched a signature gathering campaign in support of this effort. The goal is one million signatures demonstrating that a significant number of people feel that poverty is a serious problem and want it addressed by the White House. Go to this website to download a petition: [www.communityactionpartnership.com](http://www.communityactionpartnership.com)

## Foodshare's Thanksgiving Collection Hours



Bring your donations of turkeys, trimmings, and cash directly to Foodshare's main facility located at 200 Addison Road, Windsor. For directions, please call 860-688-6500.

Sun. Nov 21 10AM-2PM

Mon Nov 22 8AM-5PM

Tues Nov 23 8AM-5PM

Wed Nov 24 8AM-12Noon

Nov 25 & 26 Closed for Holiday

If you are in need of food, call infoline 2-1-1 for resources throughout Connecticut. ♦



**Save These Dates!**

## Awards Receptions

Connecticut Voices for Children will be holding its 2004 First for Kids Awards Reception. The reception will be on Wednesday, December 15, 2004, 5:30-7:30p.m. at the Hartford Club, 46 Prospect Street, Hartford.

The honorees will be: Jane & Courtney Bourns, George Coleman, Senator Chris Dodd, William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund, Judith Solomon and Representative Toni Walker.

For more information, call 203-498-4240 or email: [susank@ctkidslink.org](mailto:susank@ctkidslink.org). ♦

ACORN's Annual Awards Banquet will be held on Thursday, December 9, 2004 at 5:30p.m. at the Ukrainian National Home, 961 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford. Honorees will be Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, State Representative Felipe Reinoso and Community Activist Joyce Hamilton. To obtain tickets or to place an ad in the event program book, contact ACORN at 860-523-1017 or [ctacorn@acorn.org](mailto:ctacorn@acorn.org). ♦

## November Elections Reshape Connecticut Senate and House

As a result of the November elections, the Connecticut General Assembly will look significantly different in 2005. The state Senate will see the most changes. Five new senators, all Democrats, were elected. Three are replacing Republicans so the makeup of the new Senate will be 24 Democrats and 12 Senators. This means that Democrats have a "veto-proof" majority - if all the Democratic Senators vote together, they can override the Governor's veto of a bill. The new senators are:

*Jonathan Harris (D), 5<sup>th</sup> District, replacing Kevin Sullivan (D)*

*Edward Meyer (D), 12<sup>th</sup> District, replacing William Aniskovich (R)*

*Gayle Slossberg (D), 14<sup>th</sup> District, replacing Win Smith (R)*

*Andrea Stillman (D), 20<sup>th</sup> District, replacing Melodie Peters (D)*

*Robert Duff (D), 25<sup>th</sup> District, replacing Robert Genuario (R)*

Senate Democratic leadership had already changed because Kevin Sullivan left his Senate seat to become Lieutenant Governor when Governor Rowland resigned. Senator Donald Williams from Eastern Connecticut was elected President Pro Temp of the Senate when Kevin Sullivan left the Senate in July. He will continue in that position and Sen. Martin Looney of New Haven will continue as Majority Leader of the Senate.

On the Republican side of the Senate, Sen. Louis DeLuca will continue as Minority Leader but Sen. William Aniskovich was defeated for re-election. He had served as the second-ranking Republican leader in the Senate (Minority Leader Pro Temp). Sen. DeLuca is expected to name a new Minority Leader Pro Temp soon.

In the House of Representatives: Before the election, there were 95 Democrats and 56 Republicans in the House. On November 2, 99 Democrats and 52 Republicans were elected, with one race, in which a Republican was elected, subject to a recount. This is not a veto-proof majority. 101 votes are required in the House to override a veto.

The Democratic leadership in the House is also changing. Rep. Moira Lyons, Speaker of the House for the past six years, did not run for re-election. Rep. James Amann of Milford is running for Speaker of the House, against Rep. William Dyson of New Haven. The Speaker is elected by the full House of Representatives, and must have 76 votes to be elected. This vote takes place at the start of the session in January. Usually the Democrats unite around the choice of their caucus. On November 9, the Democratic caucus met and voted to support Rep. Amann as Speaker by a vote of 75 to 23, with one person absent. Rep. Dyson is vowing to continue campaigning for Speaker and to attempt to gain a majority of votes by obtaining Republican votes in January.

Rep. Christopher Donovan of Meriden will replace Rep. Amann as Majority Leader of the House. The Republican leadership will stay the same, with Rep. Robert Ward as Minority Leader.

It is expected that the Senate Democratic leaders will name committee chairs sometime in December. But House committee assignments, including chairs, may not be made until after the vote on the Speaker in January. ♦

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**FYI: To find out who represents you, call the Capital Switchboard at 1-888-818-6641, visit [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) or [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) or enter your zip code at [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org) ♦**

## Need Help with SAGA Medical?



The Department of Social Services has been in the process of shifting the State Administered General Assistance (SAGA) Medical program to a managed care system. The original target date for the new system to be fully implemented was August 1, but as a result of concerns raised by advocates and legislators, full implementation was delayed until October 1.

Under the new system, the Community Health Network of Connecticut (CHNCT) will administer the system and the federally qualified health centers in the state will be the major providers of primary care.

SAGA Medical recipients should all have received information from CHNCT assigning them to a primary care provider. Recipients can change to a different provider in the CHNCT network.

If you have questions or want to find out who your primary care provider is, call CHNCT at 1-866-361-SAGA (7242). The contact at DSS for clients and advocates for help with individual problems is Theresa Rugens (860) 424-5156.

If you or one of your clients is assigned to a primary care provider located far from home or has problems with this new system in general, you may also contact Statewide Legal Services at 1-800-453-3320 or 860-344-0380. ♦

## Did you Know?

Food Stamp participation increased in August 2004 by 217,639 persons from the previous month, to 24,612,845 persons. Some of this increase was due to the continuing high rates of joblessness, states improving access, and the effects of the food stamp reauthorization implementation. ♦

## Help Starts Here: Dial 2-1-1



Whether you want to give or get help, Infoline at 2-1-1 is the confidential, free, number to call. An Infoline caseworker can help you find information, learn about your options, or deal with a crisis. As we get ready for winter, Infoline can help by telling you about:

- Where to get winter coats or energy assistance.
- Locations of food pantries and places that offer Thanksgiving baskets.
- Where to get children's toys & holiday baskets in December.

Call today...Thanksgiving & winter are right around the corner.❖

### *Summary of 2004 Public and Special Acts*

This book is a detailed description of new CT legislation impacting the poor. Subject areas include welfare, housing, elder, family, disability and more.

To order, fill out the form below and mail it with your \$15 payment to LARCC, 80 Jefferson St., Hartford, CT 06106. Call (860) 278-5688.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## **Statewide Legal Services Extended Office Hours**

If you are low income and think you have a legal problem, please call us for free advice and information. Our client phone lines are now open:

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
9-4	9-7	9-3	9-7	9-3

Call 344-0380 in the Middletown and Hartford exchanges. Our toll-free number is 1-800-453-3320. Se habla español.❖

## **CABHN Meetings held 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month**

**9:30 - 11:30 am**

### **Upcoming Meeting: December 3rd**

Community Renewal Team  
(CRT)

555 Windsor St., Hartford

*Topics:*

2005

*Legislative Session*

*See you there!*

*The Connecticut Alliance for Basic Human Needs (CABHN) is a statewide network of individuals, community groups and organizations which supports and promotes advocacy on low-income issues. For more information, please call (860) 278-5688.*

**Legal Assistance Resource Center of CT and  
CABHN** (Connecticut Alliance for Basic Human Needs)  
80 Jefferson Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

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