

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Energy Assistance helps eligible residents pay bills and avoid disconnection

Eligible residents receive an average benefit of \$550 to use towards energy bills

Milwaukee, WI (April 16, 2018) - The Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services is providing extended hours today through May 15 for homeowners and renters to apply for Energy Assistance, a one-time average benefit of \$550 for eligible residents to cover a portion of their energy costs.

"With the changeable weather in Milwaukee County, it's critical that our residents have access to utility service in their homes," said Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele. "In March alone, this program disbursed over \$1.2 M, helping more than 4,000 people in the county establish payment plans and avoid disconnection. Energy Assistance is a lifeline for many Milwaukee County residents, and I encourage anyone who might need a little help to learn more."

Extended hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. Eligible residents can schedule appointments to apply for Energy Assistance prior to May 15, 2018 to receive a benefit. They can call 414-270-4-MKE, or go online to www.energyassistancemke.org. There are also flexible walk-in options at six service locations:

- Northwest - 4906 W Fond du Lac Avenue North - 6918 W Brown Deer Road
- Downtown - 728 N James Lovell Street (7th and Wisconsin)
- West Allis - 6761 W Greenfield Ave
- Southeast - 2701 S Chase Ave (between Lincoln and Oklahoma)
- South - 5663 S 27th Street

For eligible residents who plan to apply for benefits on May 3 at the Energy Assistance location at 5663 S 27th Street between 3 and 5 p.m., they'll receive a free coupon book for Wisconsin Dells with hundreds more in savings from 103.7 KISS FM.

For more information on eligibility or to schedule an appointment, visit www.energyassistancemke.org. To schedule an interview, please contact Katy Glodosky at 920-627-2619 or katy.glodosky@milwaukeecountywi.gov.

About the Milwaukee County Energy Assistance Program

The Milwaukee County Energy Assistance Program, administered by the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services' Management Services Division, helps more than 58,000 Milwaukee County households each year stay safe, warm and make their energy bills more affordable. In partnership with UMOS and Community Advocates, and funding largely provided by the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), the Energy Assistance Program's help amounts to almost \$40 million in benefits, including utility bill assistance, emergency furnace repair and replacement, and assistance with payment plans and disconnections. See more at EnergyAssistanceMKE.org.

About the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services

The Milwaukee County Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) empowers safe, healthy, meaningful lives by ensuring that no one in need goes unserved. Whether it be experiencing homelessness, a mental health crisis, incarceration as a youth or caring for a child with disabilities, DHHS connects individuals and families to resources that can help. Using best practices from the social service sector, DHHS collaborates within its divisions and with community partners to provide personalized services that are integrated, trauma-informed, evidence-based and drive positive outcomes. Committed to performance excellence, DHHS is dedicated to ensuring everyone has access to the resources they need to overcome challenges and create opportunities to become self-sufficient, strengthen their families and create a healthy, stable and safe community. DHHS is comprised of five divisions: Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division, Division of Youth & Family Services, Disabilities Services Division, Housing Division and Management Services Division. For more information visit county.milwaukee.gov/HealthAndHumanServices.

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