

NEWS FROM Legislator

Lou D'Amaro



SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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For Immediate Release

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Legislator D'Amaro Informs Residents: HEAP Applications Available Next Week

(HUNTINGTON STATION, NY... November 12, 2013 – Temperatures have dropped, the first snow has fallen and many local residents are growing concerned about the ability to afford the high cost of heating their homes this winter. That's why Suffolk Legislator Lou D'Amaro (D-Huntington Station) wants to inform County residents that the Suffolk County Office for the Aging will begin processing applications for the 2013-2014 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), which provides financial assistance for qualifying senior citizen households on Monday, November 18.

"Times are tough and our most vulnerable residents should not have to choose whether to heat their homes or put food on the table," D'Amaro said. "Luckily, the HEAP program will again provide much needed assistance to Suffolk County seniors struggling through this difficult economic period."

Depending on their primary heating source, qualifying homeowners and renters can receive a basic HEAP benefit of between \$400 and \$650 for oil, propane, kerosene natural gas or electricity. Last year, thousands of Suffolk County households received

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assistance through HEAP. Assistance is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis while available.

Applications were already mailed out to households that received a benefit in the 2012-2013 program. Individuals who have not previously received the benefit and wish to submit a new application to the Office for the Aging must meet one of the following conditions:

- Age 60 or older, or
- Under 60 and receiving Social Security Disability, or
- Under 60 and receiving Supplemental Security Income Code A.

To request an application, call the Office of the Aging HEAP Hotline at (631) 853-8326 after November 18.

Applicants who do not meet the Office for the Aging guidelines may still qualify based on HEAP Tier Income Guidelines for income and household size. A family's gross monthly household income must be at or below the poverty standards set by New York State for HEAP. For example, monthly income for a 1-person household cannot exceed \$2,175, for a 2-person household the limit is \$2,844 and for a 3 or 4-person household it cannot exceed \$3,513 or \$4,182 respectively. For more information, call the HEAP hotline at (631) 853-8825. Non-emergency new applications can be obtained and completed in person at the Suffolk County Department of Social Services South West Center, located at 2 South 2nd Street in Deer Park, (631) 854-6684 or accessed online at <http://otda.ny.gov/programs/apply/#heap>

"I urge all residents who qualify or even think they may qualify to apply for this vital assistance," D'Amaro said.

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Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amaro represents the 17th Legislative District, which includes parts of Huntington, Huntington Station, South Huntington, Melville, West Hills, Cold Spring Hills, Dix Hills, Deer Park, North Babylon and West Babylon. He is chairman of the Ways & Means committee and vice chairman of both the Parks & Recreation and Economic Development & Energy committees of the Suffolk County Legislature.