

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Suffolk County Legislator Tom Muratore

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Legislator Muratore- "Suffolk County's Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is Available November 17th"

Selden, NY –Legislator Tom Muratore (R-Ronkonkoma) urges all qualifying residents to apply for the county's HEAP program, which provides energy assistance for heat during the cold winter months. Applications will be accepted beginning Monday, November 17th through Monday, March 16th for the 2014-2015 season, and the benefit is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

"The cold weather will shortly be upon us, and soon the nights will be below freezing weather," stated Legislator Muratore. "Fuel costs are high, and many cannot afford to keep their families warm. I encourage all those who meet the criteria to apply—the earlier the better- and take advantage of this vital assistance offered by the County."

Regular HEAP eligibility and benefits are based on income, household size, the primary heating source and the presence of a household member who is under age 6, age 60 or older or permanently disabled. An eligible household may receive one regular HEAP benefit per program year. Regular benefits for households that pay directly for heat based on actual usage are paid directly to the vendor that supplies the household's primary source of heat.

Your household may be eligible for a regular HEAP benefit if:

- You are aged 60 and over, or under age 60 and receiving Social Security Disability benefits, and:
- You and your household members are United States Citizens or qualified aliens, and:
- Your household's gross monthly income is at or below the current income guides for your household size as described below, or:
- You receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits or
- You receive Temporary Assistance, or:
- You receive Code A Supplemental Security Income (SSI Living Alone)

To meet the income eligibility requirements, a household of 1 cannot earn above \$2,194 monthly, 2 members cannot exceed \$2,869 monthly, for 3 the maximum is \$3,544, and for 4 the limit is \$4,219.

Applications may be accessed and printed online at:

<http://otda.ny.gov/programs/apply/#heap>

Want to see if you are eligible? Complete a HEAP pre-screening or apply online at:

www.mybenefits.ny.gov.

For more information, you can contact the HEAP hotline at:

631-853-8326