

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Suffolk County Legislator Tom Muratore

325 Middle Country Road, Suite 3

Selden, NY 11784

Contact: Lauren Auerbach

Phone: 631-854-9292

E-mail: Lauren.Auerbach@suffolkcountyny.gov



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Legislator Muratore Alerts Residents that Suffolk County's Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is Available November 16th

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 16th for the 2015-2016 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 temperatures," 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 \$2,244 monthly, 2 members cannot exceed \$2,935 monthly, for 3 the maximum is \$3,625, and for 4 the limit is \$4,316.

Applications are available when HEAP season begins and may be accessed and printed online at:

<https://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