

2011-2012 LIHEAP Program Begins

The Department of Public Welfare (DPW) will begin this year's **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** on November 1, 2011. There are two parts to the program: the Cash Grant and Crisis Grant. The Cash Grant will begin on November 1st, and the Crisis Grant will begin on January 3rd. To be eligible for either program household income must meet the below guidelines. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THE "BEGIN" DATES OF THE PROGRAM, AS WELL AS THE INCOME LIMITS, ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Income Limits</u>
1	\$16,335
2	\$22,065
3	\$27,795
4	\$33,525

Homeowners and renters are eligible for the program if the total household income is not more than the program limits. LIHEAP payments will be sent to the applicant's heating or utility company, which will apply this credit to their account. Unless renters pay their own heating costs independently from their rent, they must give DPW a statement from their landlord indicating that their heating charges are included in their rental payments. Subsidized housing tenants are eligible only if they pay their own heating charges. Applications for county residents can be obtained by calling the LIHEAP Hotlines at Bucks County Assistance Office: 1-866-857-7095 or 1-800-616-6481. You can also apply online at www.compass.state.pa.us. Applications will be mailed automatically to last year's LIHEAP recipients.

The **Weatherization Program** is administered through the Bucks County Opportunity Council. The energy conservation assessment, for eligible persons, includes: a review of the heating system, sealing drafty areas, attic insulation and energy education to review electric usage. Eligibility for Weatherization must be based on one of the following three criteria:

- A family unit whose income is at or below 200% of the Federal poverty level. For example, a one-person household must make \$21,780 or lower, and a family of four must be at \$44,700 or lower.
- A family unit that contains a member who has received cash assistance payments from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- A family unit that is eligible for assistance under LIHEAP.

Any of these three requirements are qualifiers for households who seek assistance. Call 215-529-1663 or 1-866-375-3280 for details.