

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE      March 29, 2011**

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### **Funds Available for Electric Bills**

The Lee County Department of Human Services has funding to assist low-income households with their utility bills. Due to the recent cold weather, funding has been released for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to help with electric bills for heating and electric costs.

Total household gross income must be at, or below, 150% of the poverty level. Households having a difficult time paying their electric bill that have already received LIHEAP should still call to see they are eligible for assistance.

LIHEAP is available in two sections:

- LIHEAP Regular - **Not for deposits or to prevent disconnection.** This is a once-per-year benefit and the maximum benefit is \$300.00.
- LIHEAP Crisis - **Available for deposits/re-connection or to prevent disconnection.** The maximum benefit is currently \$600.00 and available twice per year; once during the Winter season (Oct 1 - Mar 31) and once during the Summer season (Apr 1 - Sept 30). Electric bill must either show a past-due amount, or be a final or disconnect notice.

**Applications for LIHEAP are taken by appointment only. Please call 533-7900 on Friday mornings after 8:00 a.m. and follow prompts 1, 5, and 2 for an appointment.**

**Director of Communications**

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