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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Emergency Home Energy Relief available for Flagler County seniors experiencing a ‘home energy crisis’

April 20, 2023 – Assistance is available for Flagler County seniors experiencing a “home energy crisis” through the Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program (EHEAP).

Eligibility is determined by gross household income, family size and at least one member of the household must be 60 years old or older. Senior applicants must be a citizen of the United States, or a permanent legal resident who is eligible for federal benefits. Household eligibility may be considered when at least one member, preferably an adult, meets the citizenship/alienage requirements.

“These funds are intended to make payments to utility companies or fuel suppliers, to make repairs to heating or cooling equipment or to resolve other energy emergencies,” said Senior Services Program Manager Winnie Costello. “This program does not pay water bills, or for gas or propane used for cooking or to heat water.”

A home energy emergency may result from a delinquent utility bill, lack of fuel or wood, or the receipt of a shut off notice.

“They could be eligible for up to \$5,000 in assistance,” said Health and Human Services Director Joseph Hegedus. “The window for this funding is pretty small – September 30.”

Payments are made directly to the vendor for electricity, natural gas, propane, fuel oil, kerosene, or wood. Blankets, portable heaters, and fans may be purchased. The program can also help pay repairs to existing heating or cooling equipment, or replacement of existing unit if needed.

To be eligible for assistance, households must have:

- A documented heating or cooling emergency,
- At least one individual age 60 or older in the home, and
- A gross household annual income equal to or less than 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.
- Proper documentation, such as gross income and family size are among other factors considered.

Andy Dance
District 1

Greg Hansen
District 2

David Sullivan
District 3

Leann Pennington
District 4

Donald O’Brien, Jr.
District 5

For more information and or to apply for benefits, call Flagler County Social Services Senior Services Division at 386-586-2324, ext. 3623.

The program is administered through a contractual agreement between the Department of Economic Opportunity and the Department of Elder Affairs. Flagler County Health and Human Services, Senior Services Division, is the local provider, and the assistance is made possible through an agreement of the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners with the Northeast Florida Area Agency on Aging – which does business as ElderSource out of Jacksonville.

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