



Karl F. Dean, Mayor

# News Release

Metropolitan Action Commission

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## **Impact of Reduced Federal Funding Hits Needy Families during Winter Months**

**Nashville, TN---** Based on the number of applications on hand for energy assistance and the number of persons who are coming in for service daily; the Metropolitan Action Commission has obligated all of its remaining energy assistance funds.

The agency receives federal funding through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which helps needy families pay their home electricity and natural gas bills.

“Nashville is experiencing the same difficulty as other cities who have utilized all of their energy funds. Other Community Action Agencies across the state have also obligated all funding for energy assistance,” said Cynthia Croom, executive director of the Metropolitan Action Commission.

Many community programs received fewer dollars for LIHEAP this year. Last year Metro Action received \$3.4 million to help with energy costs. This year Metro Action’s allotment was \$1.8 million.

“Although we knew the funding would be less this year, the impact of the extremely warm temperatures during the summer also contributed to the availability of funds to help families,” said Croom.

The agency will receive an additional \$155,000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; however the number of applications received for energy assistance is expected to deplete the additional funding once the applications are processed.

Customers can continue to apply for help with their energy bills, however they will be placed on a waiting list in the event additional funds become available. Funds are still available for payment assistance for water, prescriptions, special diet foods, mortgage, rent and property tax payments.

Customers may apply for assistance Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.