METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

Karl F. Dean
Mayor

Cynthia Croom
Executive Director

Metropolitan Action Commission
1624 5th Avenue, North
Nashville, TN 37208

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday July 2, 2008

Media Contact: Lisa Gallon
(615) 862-8860, Ext 144 office
(615) 566-4710 cell
Lisa.gallon@nashville.gov

First Day of Funding brings Hundreds to Metro Action for help with Bills

Agency offers multiple ways to apply for assistance with utility payments

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The Metropolitan Action Commission served 278 residents seeking assistance with services such as utility, rent and mortgage payments on Tuesday. Nearly 100 people were lined up at the doors at the downtown location prior to the agency opening at 8 a.m.

"We expected the long lines for assistance due to the many calls that we received regarding the program and the fact that we had been out of funding for several months," said Cynthia Croom, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Action Commission.

Earlier this week the agency announced an additional location at the Susan Gray Head Start Center (445 Cotton Lane), located in south Nashville in an effort to save customers time and money if they lived or worked in south Nashville area.

Susan Gray Head Start is a temporary site that will be open until July 10, Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until 12 noon for residents who need to apply for help with their electricity or natural gas payments only.

The main downtown location (1624 5th Avenue North) will accept applications for all programs Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. for as long as funding lasts.

"We do not anticipate running out of funding for several months, so we ask that customers remain patient as we attempt to assist as many as we can each day," said Croom.

Customers can also pick up an application at several locations throughout the city or visit the agency's website (www.nashville.gov/mac). Applications are available at all Metro Park Community Centers, all Nashville Libraries, the Nashville Electric Service, Metro Social Services and the Knowles Senior Center. Applicants can returned by mail to the main downtown location (1624 5th Avenue North, 37208) or drop them off at either the downtown or south Nashville location.

Last year, within the first week Metro Action processed 700 applications for assistance. Just over 7,000 residents were assisted throughout the program year.

The agency also provides assistance such as help with water, rent and mortgage payments, property taxes and rent and utility deposits.

For more information, please call 862-8860, Ext 100

###