



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, December 29, 2008

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Metro Action receives over \$3 Million to help more families with energy bills *Additional Funds Prevent Program from Putting Families on Waiting List for Energy Help*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The Metropolitan Action Commission received an additional \$3.1 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) earlier this month, and it could not have come at a better time.

“In the past two years when we ran out of funds, we had to place families on a waiting list in hopes of receiving additional funding. It is very unusual for us to receive this amount of funding this far into the fiscal year, but it is greatly needed, especially this year,” said Cynthia Croom, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Action Commission.

Just before the Christmas holiday Metro Action reported that 5,498 families had received help with their natural gas or electricity bills. “The number of families we’ve seen so far has nearly exceeded the total amount of residents that we served all of last year,” said Croom. Last year the agency helped 5,993 families.

Shortly after Thanksgiving, the agency had totally obligated all of its initial allotment of \$2.2 million that it received in July. The additional funding will allow the agency to continue to assist low-income residents with their energy bills during what appears to be a nation-wide economic crisis.

In addition to the increased funding, state Governor Phil Bredesen announced a leveraging project designed to enhance the impact of the energy funding.

The leveraging program would allow Metro Action to match local partnering agencies’ contributions toward electricity or natural gas bills by 2-to-1. The Metro Action Commission has identified several potential partners that will also work with low income families to ensure these funds reaches as many residents as possible. Metro Action’s share of leveraging dollars is an additional \$464,552.

In all, Metro Action will receive \$5.8 million in energy assistance funding this year. Metro Action anticipates being able to assist up to 8,360 additional families with their electricity or natural gas payments.

Energy assistance applications are available at all public libraries, the Nashville Electric Service and accessible on our website (www.nashville.gov/mac). Customers may bring the applications to the Metro Action office Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am until 3:00pm. Due to the increased amount of people expected for assistance the agency encourages customers to consider mailing in their applications to: Metro Action, 1624 5th Avenue, North, Nashville, TN 37208.

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