



PRESS RELEASE

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Winter is Coming: Be Prepared for the Cold with CRT's Energy Assistance Program

Households in Hartford and Middlesex Counties can receive support to pay energy bills and make their homes more energy efficient this winter

HARTFORD — Are you ready for the arrival of winter in New England? The Old Farmer's Almanac predicts a cold and snowy winter here in the northeast, but there is no need to panic. The Community Renewal Team (CRT) offers its annual Energy Assistance program for low and moderate-income people living in Hartford and Middlesex Counties to help pay for home-heating expenses and to help make their homes more energy efficient all year round.

"Winter might still be a few months away, but it is never too early to start planning how you will pay your home-heating bills," says Patricia Monroe-Walker, Director of Energy Services for CRT. "We are happy to help eligible families make sure that they have the resources to heat their homes properly throughout the winter."

Low to moderate-income households may be eligible for help paying their utility or fuel bills. Home heating includes oil, natural gas, electricity, propane, kerosene, or wood. Even if heat is included in the cost of rent, tenants may be able to receive a one-time cash payment.

CRT's Energy Assistance program helps thousands of families in Connecticut every year. Last year, the program served nearly 20,000 households in Hartford and Middlesex Counties.

Program eligibility is based on household size, total gross household income, and assets. CRT staff speaks both English and Spanish, and they can help families to complete the application process.

Residents can also get help making their homes more comfortable and energy-efficient, which will also save money. CRT's certified technicians can visit homes to help people look for ways to reduce energy use, including: sealing air leaks and drafts, installing energy-saving light bulbs, and installing water-saving measures. Residents may also qualify for insulation, refrigerator/freezer

vouchers, boiler/furnace replacement or repair, as well as window replacements and other services.

More information about how to apply for energy and weatherization assistance is available on CRT's website at: <http://www.crtct.org/en/need-help/energy-a-weatherization> or by calling our 24-hour automated attendant at 860-560-5800.

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Community Renewal Team, Inc. is the designated Community Action Agency for Middlesex and Hartford Counties and is the largest non-profit provider of human services in Connecticut. The agency's mission is Preparing Our Community to Meet Life's Challenges. The mission is achieved each day by helping people and families become self-sufficient while making sure basic needs are met. CRT's programs include Head Start, Meals on Wheels, energy assistance, supportive housing and shelters, and many others, serving people in more than 60 cities and towns in both our core catchment area and throughout Connecticut. www.crtct.org