



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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CRT's Winter Heating Assistance Phone Lines Now Open

This year's "energy season" kicks-off with a chance to win an A/C Unit for your home

HARTFORD— It's the dog days of summer, so you may not be thinking about the coming winter heating season. But with the fall right around the corner, phone lines are open at the Community Renewal Team for people to call and make appointments to receive financial assistance for winter heating.

This year's start to the "energy season" also comes with a cool way to beat the (current) heat—a chance to win one of two window air conditioning units donated from a local business. All customers that complete an application for heating assistance by August 31 will be entered into a drawing for one of two window a/c units (up to 15,000 Btu) that were donated by Star Hardware & Plumbing Supply in Hartford.

Customers using all types of heating fuel—electric, natural gas, oil, kerosene, wood and propane—may apply for assistance. Both returning and new customers, including recently laid off residents, are encouraged to call and make an appointment to see an intake specialist.

The number to call to make an appointment or to get more information is (860) 560-5800, and operators are available from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Documents needed to apply for heating assistance include the following:

- Social Security Number and date of birth for all household members
- Current rent or mortgage statement
- For electric or natural gas: Current utility bill in name of a household member over 18
- For oil, kerosene, wood or propane: Name of fuel company
- Proof of current gross income (pay stubs, bank statements) for all household members for 4 weeks prior to application date
- Documentation for Social Security and other monthly benefits, such as bank statements
- Current statements for checking, savings, credit union accounts, stocks, bonds and CD's

Last year, CRT gave out energy assistance payments to more than 27,000 Connecticut households—despite the mild winter. In years with the largest number of applicants, CRT has given out payments to 33,000 households. Expanded income guidelines and benefits for those recently laid off have made even more households eligible for assistance. Based on last year’s figures, a two-person household may qualify with yearly income up to \$41,668, while a household of four can make up to \$61,276.

Families and individuals facing recent layoffs are encouraged to apply. Income eligibility is determined based on gross earnings from the four weeks preceding your intake appointment. After a lay off or reduction in hours, families who were previously over-income may qualify. For more information or to make an appointment, call (860) 560-5800.

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About Community Renewal Team:

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