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Mayor Willie W. Herenton Announces Launch of City's Energy/Utility Assistance Program

New program designed to help residents who fall between the gaps of existing assistance.

MEMPHIS, TN (April 8, 2008) Mayor Willie W. Herenton earlier today announced that the City's energy/utility assistance program is up and running helping residents who need emergency funds for energy and utility expenses.

Administered through the City's Office of Human Services, Case Management, South Memphis Alliance and The Works, Inc., the program is designed to help those who do not qualify for assistance from existing programs. Eligible recipients are those whose income falls between 151 percent and 175 percent of the United States government's poverty income guidelines.

Mayor Herenton says the guidelines are designed to fill a gap in service and prevent overlap of assistance from other agencies. "We did not want to reinvent the wheel here," the mayor stated. "The idea is to help those who are considered a part of the working poor, but do not meet the stringent guidelines of other local assistance programs," the mayor added.

The City of Memphis Energy/Utility Assistance Program will award an eligible family up to \$500 once per heating and cooling season toward their Memphis Light, Gas & Water (MLGW) bill. Money will not be given directly to applicants, but rather applied directly to their utility bill through MLGW.

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ADD ONE
ENERGY/UTILITY ASSISTANCE

To qualify for program assistance, applicants must meet the income guidelines **and** live in Memphis, TN., make an appointment by telephone, and have received an interruption notice from MLGW. Additional requirements also apply. Funds are not provided for delinquent MLGW bills that include charges associated with theft, returned checks, etc.

Residents must have an appointment to apply and must schedule their appointment via telephone by calling (901) 575-7200. No appointments will be taken in person. Eligibility and other program information also is available online at **www.memphistn.gov**.

For more information, call the City of Memphis Office of Human Services at (901) 575-7200.

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City of Memphis Energy/Utility Assistance Program

FACT SHEET

Program Overview

The City of Memphis Energy/Utility Assistance Program provides financial assistance to eligible Memphis residents who have received a service interruption notice from Memphis Light, Gas & Water. Up to \$500 is awarded once per heating and once per cooling season to applicants who meet residency, income, and all other program requirements. Applicants must also be prepared to pay their MLGW bill's outstanding balance that is above and beyond the assistance provided.

Who is eligible?

Memphis residents who:

- Meet all income requirements (see attached income guidelines chart)
- Have received a service interruption notice from Memphis Light Gas & Water (those who have delinquent bills due to theft associated charges, returned check fees, etc. are not eligible for assistance)
- Make an appointment by calling (901) 575-7200. (Appointments **cannot** be made in person)
- And, provide the following documentation:
 - **Photo I.D. or other acceptable form of identification, including:**
 - ✓ Driver's License
 - ✓ State Identification
 - ✓ Passport
 - ✓ I-9
 - **Proof of residency** (U.S. mail or letter from Social Security, Disability Administration, etc.)
 - **Proof of income** (check stub or W-2)
 - **Copy of MLG&W service interruption notification or bill**
 - **Name and ages of all in household, including age verification for children under 6 years old.**

City Of Memphis Energy/Utility Assistance Program Income Guideline Chart

The following income guidelines are based on the United States Government's 2008 Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines issued Jan. 23, 2008, (<http://aspe.hhs.gov/POVERTY/08poverty.shtml>). Eligible applicants for the City of Memphis Energy/Utility Assistance Program fall between 151% and 175% of the designated poverty level.

<i>Number of members in household</i>	<i>100% Baseline poverty level</i>	<i>151 % (minimum)* Based on federal government poverty income guidelines.</i>	<i>175 % (maximum)* Based on federal government poverty income guidelines.</i>
1	\$10,400	\$15,704	\$18,200
2	14,000	\$21,140	\$24,500
3	17,600	\$26,576	\$30,800
4	21,200	\$32,012	\$37,100
5	24,800	\$37,448	\$43,400
6	28,400	\$42,884	\$49,700
7	32,000	\$48,320	\$56,000
8	35,600	\$53,756	\$62,300
9 +	Add \$3,600 per additional household member	Multiply poverty level calculation by 151%	Multiply poverty level calculation by 175%