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Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services Reminds Residents to Take Precautions During Cold Weather

MILWAUKEE – The Milwaukee County DHHS Energy Assistance Program offers help for income eligible residents. Services include responding to no heat emergencies, repairing or replacing furnaces, weatherization assessments and help with utility bill payments. To be eligible for a range of services, residents can schedule and appointment to apply for Energy Assistance by calling 270-4-MKE (4653), or going to keepwarmmke.org to make an appointment at one of six Energy Assistance Sites. For No Heat after hours emergencies residents can call 2-1-1 for support.

“Milwaukee County is prepared to work around the clock to ensure the safety and well-being of every resident as this winter season continues,” Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele said. “Our departments are taking a proactive, collaborative approach with the City to ensure our residents know about the resources available in every community as we continue to see winter weather.”

“Our Energy Assistance team works day in and day out to prepare for inclement weather so that our residents can stay safe during the winter months,” said Milwaukee County DHHS Director Mary Jo Meyers. “We encourage our residents to do their part when the temperature drops by taking the necessary precautions to stay safe, sharing information about our services and checking on vulnerable neighbors.

More information can be found at keepwarmmke.org. DHHS encourages everyone to check on friends, neighbors and loved ones when the temperature drops to a dangerous level.

Residents who qualify for the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance program (WHEAP) for heating and electric bills, can access additional energy-saving and money-saving programs, including:

- **Furnace Repair** – If a furnace or boiler stops working, Emergency Heating System Assistance can help homeowners and some renters!* Costs for repairs are covered thru the program. Residents may even qualify for a replacement! (*Resident and landlord must qualify for

WHEAP. Two to 4-unit dwellings must be owner-occupied.)

- **Weatherization Program** – This program helps households with an excessive energy burden. Weatherization agencies assess the home for ways that can easily reduce your energy use and might even save money. Services differ with each home, depending on its construction and condition. Common services include:
 - Insulating attics, walls and floors
 - Reducing air leakage
 - Installing energy-efficient lighting and thermostats
 - Money-saving tips on maintenance and energy conservation
- **Crisis Services** – Residents may be eligible for crisis assistance if they have no heat, have received a disconnect notice, or are out of fuel and do not have the money to purchase more. Crisis Benefits are an additional service provided to energy assistance recipients. Guidelines are set by Milwaukee County and are based on the availability of funds and the needs of the household. Crisis benefits may be issued in addition to regular benefits.

About the Milwaukee County Energy Assistance Program

The Milwaukee County Energy Assistance Program, administered by the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services' Management Services Division, helps more than 58,000 Milwaukee County households each year stay safe, warm and make their energy bills more affordable. In partnership with UMOS and Community Advocates, and funding largely provided by the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), the Energy Assistance Program's help amounts to almost \$40 million in benefits, including utility bill assistance, emergency furnace repair and replacement, and assistance with payment plans and disconnections. **The Milwaukee County Energy Assistance Program receives funding from the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration to provide help to income eligible Milwaukee County residents.**

About the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services

The Milwaukee County Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) empowers safe, healthy, meaningful lives by ensuring that no one in need goes unserved. Whether it be experiencing homelessness, a mental health crisis, system-involved youth or caring for a child with disabilities, DHHS connects individuals and families to resources that can help. Using best practices from the social service sector, DHHS collaborates within its divisions and with community partners to provide personalized services that are integrated, trauma-informed, and evidence-based and drive positive outcomes. Committed to performance excellence, DHHS is dedicated to ensuring everyone has access to the resources they need to overcome challenges and create opportunities to become self-sufficient, strengthen their families and create a healthy, stable and safe community. DHHS is comprised of five divisions: Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division, Division of Youth & Family Services, Disabilities Services Division, Housing Division and Management Services Division. For more information visit county.milwaukee.gov/DHHS.

Warming Rooms

Those seeking safety from the cold during nighttime hours are encouraged to go to:

- St. Benedict the Moor's, 924 W. State Street, will be open to provide single adults with overnight shelter, open Sunday through Saturday from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. St. Benedict the Moor's warming room will be accessible through 2-1-1 referral and walk in.
- Repairers of the Breach, 1335 W. Vliet Street, will admit those in need of shelter on a walk-in basis from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and will be open as an overnight shelter until 7 a.m. when 20 degrees or below.
- Guest House of Milwaukee, 1216 N. 13th St., open 24/7, serving single men age 18 and older.
- Greater New Birth Church, 8237 W. Silver Spring Dr., open Sunday through Saturday from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. when 15 degrees or below.
- Divine Intervention (Ministry to the Homeless) – Tippecanoe Church, 125 W. Saveland Ave., open Sunday through Saturday from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m.
- Ephesians Missionary Baptist Church, 2412 N. 6th St., open Sunday through Saturday from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- Wilson Park Senior Center, 2601 W. Howard Ave., open Sunday through Saturday from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- One God Ministries, 7301 W. Burleigh St, open Sunday through Saturday 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. when 32 degrees or below, serves families.

Those seeking safety from the cold during the daytime in Milwaukee County are encouraged to go to:

- Repairers of the Breach, 1335 W. Vliet St., open Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Salvation Army Corps locations at 1645 N. 25th St., open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 4129 W. Villard Ave., Milwaukee, open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 2900 W. Coldspring Road., Greenfield, open 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Milwaukee Rescue Mission (1820 W. Wells St.,) open for day shelter any days the temperature is forecasted to be 32 degrees or below.
- Any public building such as Milwaukee County Public Library branches or Milwaukee County Senior Centers.

[Milwaukee Public Library Locations and Hours](#)

[Milwaukee County Federated Library System Locations and Hours](#)

[Milwaukee County Senior Center Locations](#)

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