



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Velmanette Montgomery

HEAP Applications Being Accepted

VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY January 3, 2013

| ISSUE: **AGING, HEATING, SENIORS**



The NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) announced that beginning January 2, eligible low-income New Yorkers who are in danger of having their heat shut off or running out of fuel, can apply for emergency Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) benefits.

HEAP, overseen by OTDA, is a federally-funded program to help eligible households in meeting their home energy needs. Eligible households can receive one regular HEAP benefit

per season, but may also be eligible for a one-time emergency HEAP benefit if they are in danger of running out of fuel or having their heat or heat-related utility service shut off.

Eligibility for emergency HEAP benefits is based on income, available resources, and the type of emergency. For example, a family of four can have a household income of \$49,333 a year and may still qualify for a HEAP benefit.

A complete list of where to apply locally can be found at otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/HEAP-contacts.pdf. More information can also be found by calling the New York State HEAP Hotline at 1-800-342-3009.

New York residents can check if they may be eligible for HEAP, and numerous other benefits, by answering a few questions online at myBenefits.ny.gov.

Emergency HEAP Benefit Amounts for 2012-2013 are as follows:

Heat Related Domestic (electric service required to operate heating equipment) - \$160;

Natural Gas Heat Only - \$400;

Natural Gas Combined with Heat Related Domestic - \$560;

Electric Heat Combined with Heat Related Domestic - \$560;

Non-utility heating fuel (oil, kerosene, and propane) - \$600;

Non-utility heating fuel (wood, pellets, coal, corn, etc.) - \$500.