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AS IT IS GETS COLDER
“PROJECT HEAT-UP” CAN HELP

As energy bills soar this winter, the Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP), part of
the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, has broadened a
program to assist low-income families with their energy bills. Project Heat-Up raises the
eligibility limit to a maximum of 175% of poverty level. For example, a family of six
who makes a maximum monthly income of $3,772 can receive assistance with their
energy bills. This program will be in effect from January 15, 2006 to March 31, 2006.

OHEP also offers other programs to fit the different needs of others during the winter
season. One of the programs is the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) that
provides heating assistance grants to fuel suppliers and utility companies on behalf of
eligible applicants. And the other program is the Electric Universal Service Program
(EUSP) that provides assistance with electric bills. The eligibility requirements for these
programs are 150% of poverty level. For example, a family of six who make a maximum
monthly income of $3,234 can receive assistance from these two programs.

OHEP is looking to help as many people as possible this winter season. For more
information on how to apply to any of these programs, call OHEP at 240-777-4450 or
you can go to the website http://www.dhr.state.md.us/meap/.