



Resource Connection

Fall 2009

Anoka County Human Services Division
Income Maintenance Department

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

IMPORTANT!
CLICK HERE FOR

H1N1 FLU INFORMATION
<http://www.ReadyAnokaCounty.us>

Inside This Issue:

Energy Assistance	Cover
Heating Bills.....	2
Salvation Army.....	2
Jobs.....	3
Clothing.....	3
Furniture	3
Children.....	4
Food Shelves	5
Fare for All.....	5
Family Table	6
MAC and NAPS.....	6
Health	7
Senior Services	7
Free Market	Back
Internet.....	Back
LEP Resource Fair	Back
Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.	

What is it? Energy Assistance is a program designed to assist low-income households with energy costs during the winter months.

Who can apply? Families, single people, and seniors who meet the eligibility guidelines.

When can I apply? The Energy Assistance program begins on October 1, 2009. The last day to submit an application is May 31, 2010.

How do I get an application? Applications can be mailed to you by contacting the Energy Assistance application line at 763-783-4712, it is also available on this website. You may also stop in our office to pick up an application. We are located at the Human Service Center for Anoka County, 1201 89th Ave. NE, Suite 345, Blaine, MN. Also available at <http://www.accap.org>.

How is an Energy Assistance grant amount determined? An energy grant is based on what it cost to heat your home the previous heating season, household size and household income.

What are the eligibility guidelines?

Applications are based on the last 3 months gross income.

Household

Size	Gross Income	Size	Gross Income	Size	Gross Income
1	\$5,423	3	\$8,761	5	\$12,099
2	\$7,092	4	\$10,430	6	\$13,768

Will Energy Assistance pay my entire bill? Your energy grant amount is based on the above information. Each household's grant amount is different and has no reflection on how much is owed to the utility company. Remember, this is an assistance program and it is not designed to pay all your heating related utility costs. You are responsible for your utility bills and will need to make monthly payments to maintain your service.

Do I need to wait for a disconnect or final notice to apply? NO - If you feel you meet the eligibility guidelines for the Energy Assistance program, apply as soon as you can, this program has limited funding.

How long will it take? Applications are processed on a first-come first-serve basis and are generally processed within 30-60 days, depending on the program funding and the information you provide. An incomplete application will delay processing.

Does Energy Assistance pay all my utility bills? NO - Payments may be made to your heating and electric utilities only. This program does not make payments toward water, sewer, garbage removal, or phone bills. However, if you are approved for the Energy Assistance program, you may be eligible for a discount on your phone service. When you receive your approval letter from the Energy Assistance program contact your phone company and request an application for the Telephone Assistance Program.

Does Energy Assistance pay on my bill every month? NO - The energy assistance grant amount is a one-time assistance, payable in 1 to 4 payments and deposited directly to your utility account.

What if I need more assistance with my utility bills? If you are in one of these situations - Past due bill / Final notice / Disconnected / Low or out of fuel - you may be eligible for the Energy Assistance, Emergency Benefit fund. If you applied and received the Primary Energy Assistance grant you could be eligible for this benefit. If the Emergency Benefit funding is not available or you do not meet the requirements, we have a listing of other resources that you may contact to see if they can assist you. Contact our office and we will let you know what is available.

Can the utility company shut me off in the winter? YES - You can be shut off any time of the year if you owe on your bill. However, if you contact your utility company and apply for the Cold Weather Rule protection and you meet their payment requirements, you will be protected from disconnection of your service during October 15th through April 15th. You will need to make monthly payments for this protection.

What if I need help filling out the application? Anoka County Community Action has an Energy Assistance staff and Outreach program that may be able to assist you. Contact ACCAP offices at 763-783-4712 to request this service.

Program to help low-income customers pay their natural gas bills

A program called the Gas Affordability Program is available to qualifying low-income customers. The program is designed to help these customers pay their natural gas charges to 6 percent of total household income and the other helps customers retire past due balances more quickly by applying monthly matching credits.

Customers must have received federal energy assistance for the current 2007-2008 heating season to qualify for the program. To continue receiving Gas Affordability Program benefits, participating customers must make regular agreed upon payments.

Customers with past due balances are encouraged to contact CenterPoint Energy to learn more about the program, which can help them resolve past due balances and avoid service disconnection.

HeatShare

Heat Share is an emergency energy help program.

▲ What does Heat Share help with?

- Utility Bills
- Furnaces that don't work properly
- Energy Related Repairs

Call 763-755-6873

▲ How else can Heat Share help?

- Conserving Energy and Education
- Budget Counseling
- Financial Help
- Family Counseling
- Social Service Information and Referrals

▲ Who can get Heat Share?

Persons who meet income guidelines and have used all public sources of help.

Salvation Army Harvest Corps

10347 Ibis Street
Coon Rapids, MN, 55433

To apply for services call: 763-755-6873



This office serves persons in Anoka County. NOTE: There is no food shelf at this location.

Available services include:

Clothing: Single clients may receive a clothing voucher once every six months, with an additional voucher available for winter clothing once a year. Families with children are not eligible for clothing except in the case of fire or natural disaster. Families will be referred to a clothing closet.

Hygiene: Shampoo, razors, shaving cream, soap and lotion are given to clients once every two months. The availability of hygiene products will vary.

Household: Furniture is not free. Vouchers are given to assist clients in the purchase of furniture at a discount price, at the Salvation Army Thrift Stores.

Transportation: Clients can qualify for tokens or a bus card in one of two ways. The caseworker must be able to verify by telephone that the client has a permanent job for which they have not received their first pay check or a permanent job interview, or a medical appointment.

Long-distance transportation: Clients can receive assistance with Greyhound Bus tickets for funerals of immediate family members (parents, siblings and children - grandparents may be considered on a case-by-case basis). Clients must have the phone number of the funeral home.

Financial assistance: Limited rent and mortgage assistance.

Seasonal events including free coats for children through Coats For Kids each fall, school supplies through Child Spree at the beginning of each school year, Christmas food certificate and toy give-away.



AnokAccess to Jobs Program

Do you have a job but no way to get there? If so, the new AnokAccess to Jobs program can help!

If you don't have a car or live along a bus route, then AnokAccess is for you. We can provide free rides to work or to the Workforce Center to job search.

Standing orders for up to three months of rides can be arranged with the Anoka County Traveler's Dial-A-Ride system.

Flexible ride schedules are available, depending on where you live and work in Anoka County. The bus will even make a stop if you need to drop children at daycare! If this sounds good to you, talk to your DWP/MFIP employment counselor to find out more about this great program!

Career Clothing Closet

- ▶ Are you looking for a job?
- ▶ Do you need professional clothing?
- ▶ Do you have an interview?
- ▶ Are you starting a new job?



Visit the Workforce Center Clothes Closet.

Maybe they can help. The closet is stocked with most sizes. If you use DWP/MFIP or Workforce Center services, check us out. Ask your worker or job counselor to learn more.



Minnesota Workforce Center Anoka County

offers many free services

Hours: 8:00 - 4:30

Monday through Friday

Open Every Tuesday Evening until 6:30 PM

763-783-4800

<http://www.mnworkforcecenter.org/anoka/index.html>

Need Help?

- Finding a job?
- Putting together a job search plan?
- Planning your career?

We're here to help with your work needs. You can use our computers to help with your job and career activities.

- Use Minnesota's Job Bank. Minnesota's Job Bank has local, statewide, and nationwide job listings.
- Access the Internet.
- Word Processing programs.
- Computerized help to learn how to type, or to improve your typing.
- Job Search and Career Workshops.
- Information on schools and training.
- Resume and cover letter help.
- Free faxing and copying.

CEAP Clothing Closet

Open: Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9:00-11:30 AM and 1:00-3:30 PM

6480 78th Ave N, Brooklyn Park

763-566-9600

CEAP's Clothing Closet provides free clothing to Minnesota residents in need. You must show a valid picture ID to be allowed to shop. Shoppers are allowed to visit the Closet twice a month.



Are you a working parent? Do you live in Mounds View, New Brighton, Anoka County, or Northwest Hennepin County? If you can't qualify for a loan to purchase or repair your car at standard rates, the CEAP Ways to Work Loan Program might be right for you.

Call the CEAP Loan Coordinator at 763-566-9600.

Having a safe and dependable car is important. It can make a major difference in maximizing your employment options and your ability to provide for your family. Call to find out more.

Dollars into \$ense

Free 1.5 hour class

October 20, 2009

November 17, 2009

December 22, 2009

Basics of Developing a Savings/Spending Plan



10:00 AM: Bunker Hills Activity Center, 550 Bunker Lake Blvd NW, Andover

7:00 PM: Blaine Human Service Center, 1201 89th Ave NE, Blaine

Call 763-755-1280 to reserve a spot

Twice Nice

ACCAP Twice Nice Thrift Store provides the community with quality, low-cost/previously used clothing, dishes, household items, toys, linens, books, and more! The community is invited to stop in and see what we have to offer.

Store Hours:

Tuesday through Friday 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Saturday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Location: 11716 Jefferson Street NE in Blaine, MN

Phone: 763-754-0935



FURNITURE & HOUSEWARES

In need of furniture? We may be able to help. Need to be an Anoka County resident, meet income guidelines and be able to transport furniture. **763-783-4747**

Child Care Assistance

Child Care Assistance (CCA) provides subsidies to help pay for a family's child care costs. It is a sliding fee program. Families must be income eligible and need child care so that parents can work, attend school or job search. The children must be under the age of 13 (15 years old if the child has a special need), and all parents of the children in the home must be in an approved activity. Families interested in receiving any form of Child Care Assistance can be screened for the program by calling **763-717-7711**.



- ▶ Special Supplemental Nutritional Program for low income pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, and children under age 5.
- ▶ Provides nutrition education and counseling.
- ▶ Provides vouchers for healthy foods such as milk, cheese, juice, iron fortified formulas and more.

CALL TO APPLY
763-422-7055



Newborn Clothes

Birthright
763-757-0715

Maternity/Baby Clothes

First Care Pregnancy Center
763-323-3435



<http://www.coveringallfamilies.org/>

Covering All Families



The Covering All Families website was made to support Minnesota families and make them stronger. Lots of programs exist to help families. Many times people do not know they qualify for these programs, or do not know how to apply. This website can help. You can use the website to:

- Learn if you may qualify for programs that help pay for health care coverage, child care, food, school lunches, and your heat bill
- See if you might get tax credits that could give you cash back or reduce how much you pay at tax time
- Print out applications to apply for these programs
- Find out where you can get more help applying near your home
- Learn more about how these programs work

Anoka-Hennepin Early Childhood Family Education

ECFE Family Playtime

Stop by one of our classrooms to:

- ★ Have fun with your child.
- ★ Make new friends.
- ★ Meet other parents.
- ★ Do activities together.

Fees: \$2 per child or \$5 per family.

Registration is not necessary.

Call **763-506-1275** for specific days and times.

All parents remain with their children and are responsible for their children's safety and behavior.



ECFE Home Visiting

The ECFE program offers home visits to families with children ages birth to kindergarten.

A licensed Family Educator will come to your home for one hour. They will talk with you about:

- ★ How children grow.
- ★ Being a parent.
- ★ Community help.
- ★ Learning through play.

Home visits are free of charge.

Call Deon at **763-433-4558** for more information.



Anoka County Head Start Preschool

Head Start is available throughout Anoka County. This program is for lower income families with children up to age five. There is no cost to families. Families on County Assistance (MFIP) and Supplemental Social Security are eligible. Foster children are eligible for Head Start.



To request an application call 763-783-4300

TTY: 763-783-4724 Spanish Line 763-783-4390

Anoka County Head Start Center Locations

Anoka, Cedar, Coon Rapids, Columbia Heights

Anoka County Food Shelves

ACBC (No Appointment Needed) **763-422-0046**
 2615 9th Avenue North
 Anoka, MN 55303
 12-3 PM, Monday and Wednesday
 6:30-8:30 PM, Tuesday and Thursday
 Serving Coon Rapids, Anoka, Ramsey, Andover,
 Oak Grove and Burns Townships
 (*Clothing also available*)

CEAP (By Appointment Only) **763-783-4930**
 1201 89th Avenue NE, Suite 130
 Blaine, MN 55434
 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM Monday - Friday
 Serving all of Anoka County

CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF
 (in Our Savior's Lutheran Church)
 (No Appointment Needed) **763-784-1971**
 9185 Lexington Avenue N
 Circle Pines, MN 55014
 9:00-11:30 AM, 4th Saturday each month
 4:00-6:00 PM Monday and Thursday
 Serving Lexington, Circle Pines, Lino Lakes,
 East Blaine, City of Centerville

LINWOOD COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF
 (By Appointment Only) **651-462-5565**
 22817 Typo Creek Drive NE
 Stacy, MN 55079
 8 AM - 12 Noon, Monday, Wednesday and Friday
 Serving Linwood Township

N.A.C.E., INC.
(NORTH ANOKA COUNTY EMERGENCY FOOD SHELF, INC.)
 (No Appointment Needed) **763-434-7685**
 18511 Highway 65 FAX: 763-434-3195
 East Bethel, MN 55011
 1-4:30 PM, Wednesdays
 Serving East Bethel, Bethel, St. Francis, Ham
 Lake, Cedar, Soderville, Andover, and Oak Grove.
 (Special Holiday distributions)

SACA (By Appointment Only) .. **763-789-2444**
 627 38th Avenue NE
 Columbia Heights, MN 55421
 7 AM-3 PM Monday thru Friday
 Serving Columbia Heights, Hilltop, Fridley and
 Spring Lake Park

Minnesota Food Helpline

Hunger Solutions Minnesota launched the Minnesota Food Helpline, a toll-free, statewide food resource information and referral helpline. Callers can be screened for Food Support (formerly Food Stamps) eligibility and helped with completing the application for Food Support. We can also help callers locate food resources in their own community whether it be a good shelf and/or hot meal site. In addition, we make referrals for other public food programs like WIC (Women, Infants and Children), MAC (Mothers and Children) and NAPS (Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors).

FARE FOR ALL

Offers food packages to families looking to stretch their food purchasing power. Each month, participants pay \$17.00 and receive \$40.00 worth of quality fruits, vegetables and meats. Last year, this program distributed 790,000 pounds of food to 85,000 people.

State	County	Zip	City	Site Name
MN	Anoka	55014	Lino Lakes	Saturday 7:00 - 9:30 A.M. St. Joseph's Catholic Church 171 Elm Street Fare For All 1-800-582-4291
MN	Anoka	55433	Coon Rapids	Saturday 8:00 - 10:00 A.M. Olive Branch Lutheran Church 2135 Northdale Blvd. Fare For All - 763-450-3880



The Family Table Meal/Community Meals
Now being served at these Anoka area churches:



EVERY Wednesday

Mount Olive Lutheran Church
 700 Western Street
 Anoka MN 55303
 Phone: 763-421-3223

FIRST Thursday

Faith Lutheran Church
 11115 Hanson Blvd NW
 Coon Rapids MN 55433
 Phone: 763-755-3530

THIRD Thursday

Olive branch Lutheran Church
 2135 Northdale Blvd NW
 Coon Rapids MN 55433
 Phone: 763-755-2663
 Meal Time: 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

SECOND Friday

Glen Cary Lutheran Church
 1553 Central Avenue NE
 Ham Lake MN 55304
 Phone: 763-434-9688

FIRST Saturday

Zion Lutheran Church
 1601 4th Avenue South
 Anoka MN 55303
 Phone: 763-421-4656

SECOND Saturday

Advent Lutheran Church
 540 East River Road
 Anoka MN 55303
 Phone: 763-421-8990

THIRD Saturday

St. Stephen's Catholic Church
 525 Jackson Street
 Anoka MN 55303
 Phone: 763-421-2471

FOURTH Saturday

Peace Lutheran Church
 20 Northdale Blvd
 Coon Rapids MN
 Phone: 763-757-1462
 Meal Time: 5:00-6:00 PM

LAST Saturday

Trinity Episcopal Church
 1415 6th Avenue South
 Anoka MN 55303
 Phone: 763-421-1196

October 24, 2009

United Methodist Church
 850 South Street
 Anoka MN 55303
 Phone: 763-421-2378

THIRD Sunday

5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
 Grace Lutheran Church
 13655 Round Lake Blvd NW
 Andover MN 55304
 Phone: 763-421-6520

YOU ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ALL MEALS FROM 5:30 –
 7:00 pm EACH MONTH (except where otherwise noted)!

FREE! Everyone is welcome!!!

**Mothers and Children Program
 (MAC)**

**Nutrition Assistance Program for
 Seniors (NAPS)**

MAC is a free food program for:

- ▶ Children up to age 6
- ▶ Pregnant women/women who have had a baby within the last year (breastfeeding or non-breastfeeding)

To qualify for MAC you must:

- ▶ Meet income guidelines
- ▶ Live in Minnesota
- ▶ Provide proof of age
- ▶ Not be receiving WIC (it's possible for one family member to receive MAC and another WIC, but the same person cannot receive both)

NAPS is a free food program for:

- ▶ Seniors 60 years or older
- ▶ Residents of the State of Minnesota
- ▶ Low income seniors who meet federal income guidelines

**What food does the MAC & NAPS
 program distribute?**

- ▶ Fruits, vegetables and juice
- ▶ Milk, cheese and egg mix
- ▶ Meat, dry beans and peanut butter
- ▶ Cereal and rice, instant potatoes and pasta
- ▶ Infant formula and infant cereal

October 21, 2009
November 18, 2009
December 16, 2009

Distributed at CEAP
 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM
 1201 89th Avenue NE, Blaine, MN

For more information call:
651-484-8241

St. Mary's Health Clinics**FREE HEALTH CARE**

to those people who do not have:

- Health Insurance
- Medicare
- MinnesotaCare
- Medical Assistance (MA)

(Prenatal, mental health, and dental services are not available. Emergency trauma or critical care cannot be provided.) For eligibility information or to schedule an appointment:

651-690-7029.

Hours: Monday – Thursday: 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Friday: 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**Healthy Start**

... is a network of community partners working with parents to help families reach their full potential.

... follows families from pregnancy to kindergarten.

Who Can Enroll?

ALL families living in Anoka County who are:

- Expecting a baby
- Parenting a child under 12 months
- Parent(s) ages 21 or younger

No Income Guidelines

For more information, call 323-KIDS

(763-323-5437)

TTY: (763) 323-6166



2009

Immunization Schedule

**ANOKA COUNTY
COMMUNITY HEALTH
& ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
IMMUNIZATION CLINIC SCHEDULE FOR
CHILDREN & ADULTS**

For more information about immunizations and clinics, call the Immunization Hotline at

763-323-6100

Website:

<http://www.anokacounty.us/immunizations>

Need a Ride?

The Anoka County Volunteer Transportation Program provides rides to and from medical, dental and social services appointments.



This service is available to senior citizens (aged 60+) and clients of Anoka County. Passengers must be able to ride independently.

The program accepts donations. Suggested donations are \$3.00 for trips that stay within Anoka County and \$8.00 for trips outside of Anoka County.

You do not have to make a donation to get a ride. Call **422-7087**

Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon to schedule a ride.

Rides are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Call at least 3-4 days in advance to give us time to call the drivers and make travel arrangements.



SENIOR CAREGIVER NETWORK
763-422-6960

The Senior Caregiver Network of Anoka County provides community access to Group Respite, Caregiver Support Groups, In-home Respite Support, Caregiver Education, Community Education, Resource Referral, and Health/Spiritual Connections. If you are caring for someone 55 and older and are in need of assistance please contact us.

<http://www.anokacounty.us/seniors>

Assistive Phones Available at No Cost to You

- Do you have trouble hearing on the phone or find you're missing your calls because you didn't hear the phone ring?
- Do you find it difficult to hold onto the handset or dial out?
- Do you find yourself speaking loudly in order for the caller to hear you?

To request an application or to learn more:

Visit www.tedprogram.org

Send an email to tedprogram@state.mn.us

Call us at 1-800-657-3663

Eligibility requirements do apply.



763-783-4707

This Anoka County information and assistance line can link older adults and their families to services and opportunities. Trained staff and volunteers man this free service and follow up with callers. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays. For information outside Anoka County call 1-800-333-2433. No fee.



Anoka County Human Services Division
Income Maintenance Department

Anoka Office:
Government Center
2100 3rd Avenue South, 4th Floor
Anoka, MN 55303
Blaine Office:
1201 89th Avenue NE Ste 400
Blaine MN 55434

ANOKA COUNTY ON THE WEB:
[HTTP://WWW.ANOKACOUNTY.US](http://www.anokacounty.us)



Save money, save the earth, make someone's day.

The Free Market is a listing service for residents who want to give or get free reusable goods for the home, garage and garden. It is part of an effort to reduce the amount of reusable goods being thrown away.

Please Note: The Twin Cities Free Market does not accept listings for live animals, plants, automobiles, motorcycles, services, firearms, child car seats, garage sales, items for sale, or items for trade. Thank you for your cooperation.

www.twincitiesfreemarket.org

Brought to you by:

EUREKA! RECYCLING

<http://www.twincitiesfreemarket.org>

There are resources available on the Internet. Don't have internet?

Did you know that Public Libraries have free Internet Access?



Anoka County Libraries (find the location nearest you):		
Centennial Branch 100 Civic Heights Circle Circle Pines	Mississippi Branch 410 Mississippi St NE Fridley	Rum River Library 4201 6th Avenue Anoka
Crooked Lake Branch 11440 Crooked Lake Blvd Coon Rapids	North Central Branch 17565 Central Ave NE Ham Lake	St. Francis Branch 3519 Bridge Street NW St. Francis
Johnsville Branch 12461 Oak Park Blvd Blaine	Northtown Library 711 County Road 10 NE Blaine	
Affiliated:		
Anoka County History Center Library 2135 3rd Ave N Anoka	Columbia Heights Public Library 820 40th Ave NE Columbia Heights	

Resource Connection

A publication of:
The Anoka County Human Services Division,
Income Maintenance Department

Editor: Chris Plombon
Assistant Editor: Erin Kunzman
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For more information on the programs mentioned,
call the numbers provided in the articles.

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copyrighted. Feel free to make additional copies for
friends, family, and co-workers.*



Second Thursday of each month
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

October 8 November 12 December 10

**WALK-INS WELCOME
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
Blaine Human Service Center
1201 89th Avenue NE,
Room 201, Blaine, MN 55434

Legal information, help with paperwork and reading
letters, health and immunization information, child care
information, and community resource information.