



NEWS RELEASE

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Help available for winter storm damage

For a short period of time, government money will be available to help low-income families, elderly, and disabled people with home repairs and other expenses connected with the Dec. 22-23 snow and ice storm.

Families may be eligible for up to \$1,500 and elderly or disabled people can get up to \$750 if they meet certain qualifications. The program will run through Jan. 28, as long as money is available.

To complete the one-page application, people should come to the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services, 222 E. Central Parkway, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. For more information, people can call 946-1000.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services identified funding for the program after Governor Taft declared 21 Ohio counties to be in a state of emergency, including Hamilton, Butler and Warren counties. In a related decision, Hamilton County commissioners voted to issue a countywide emergency declaration in an effort to receive federal reimbursement for local government expenses including overtime labor, materials, and equipment rentals.

To qualify for help families must:

- Include a minor child, or pregnant woman
- Have evidence of financial need—income at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level (for example, \$28,284 annual income for a family of four)
- Prove weather damage (not covered by insurance) with an estimate, or police report, etc.
- Have not received other emergency financial assistance within past 12 months

Elderly and disabled people must:

- be at least 55 and have no children in the home, or be receiving certain government disability benefits
- Have evidence of economic need – be at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level (\$13,968 annual income for a single person)
- Prove weather damage (not covered by insurance) with an estimate, or police report, etc.