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**Press Release**

Source: Commonwealth Ed

## Record Number of ComEd Customers Receiving Energy Assistance

Tuesday February 21, 1:08 pm ET

CHICAGO, Feb. 21 /PRNewswire/ -- About 205,000 ComEd customers are benefiting from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) this heating season, far surpassing the previous program high of 175,000 customers in

"The rising cost of heating homes with natural gas has been the main driver for the record need," said Michelle Hurley, revenue management. "We encourage customers to contact us if they are having difficulty managing their energy bills

While ComEd's electric rates have been frozen for nine years, customers have seen increases in the cost of natural gas. Natural gas prices rose sharply last year as a result of increasing demand and damage to production facilities from hurricanes and Katrina.

Customers can learn how to apply for LIHEAP funds by contacting one of the 15 local LIHEAP administering agencies in ComEd's service territory (see attachment for a list of agencies). In Chicago and suburban Cook County, the number is 456-4100. Funds are available for eligible households from Sept. 1 to May 1. Households with incomes up to 150 percent of the federal poverty level are eligible for LIHEAP support. For instance, a family of four with a monthly gross income of \$2,400 qualifies for LIHEAP assistance.

LIHEAP is a federal program that uses state and federal funds and additional money donated by utilities to provide a one-time payment towards energy bills. ComEd last fall donated \$1 million to support LIHEAP and help gas customers in the city. This is in addition to about \$36 million ComEd provided LIHEAP that the utility collected through a standard monthly energy assistance charge on customers' bills. The charge comes to 40 cents per month for residential customers.

ComEd offers a series of tools to help customers manage their bills:

- Deferred payment/installment payment plan (pay a past due amount over time)
- Budget payment plan (spread costs evenly over a 12 month period)
- Automatic payment plan (payments are deducted electronically each month)
- Credit/debit or checking account payments (pay instantly with credit or debit card, or checking account)
- ebill (paperless bill delivery and payment option)
- Extended due dates (for eligible residential customers)

For more information about these options, contact 1-800-EDISON1.

Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) is a unit of Chicago-based Exelon Corporation (NYSE: [EXC](#) - [News](#)), one of the largest electric utilities with approximately 5.2 million customers and more than \$15 billion in annual revenues. ComEd provides service to approximately 3.7 million customers across Northern Illinois, or 70 percent of the state's population.

CHICAGO AND COOK COUNTY LIHEAP INFORMATION Phone Number

Chicago & Suburban Cook County CEDA  
(Community and Economic Development, Assn.)

312-456-4100

## SUBURBS

COUNTY	AGENCY	Phone Number
Kane	Community Contacts, Inc.	630-232-9530
DeKalb	Community Contacts, Inc.	815-758-3835
DuPage	DuPage County Dept. of Human Resources	630-407-6500
Ford, Iroquois & Vermilion	East Central Il. Community Action Program	217-443-2705
Kankakee	Kankakee County Community Services	815-933-7883
Kendall	Kendall-Grundy Community Action	630-553-9100 Ext.107
Grundy	Kendall-Grundy Community Action	815-941-3262
Lake	Lake County Community Action Project	847-249-4330
McHenry	McHenry County Housing Authority	815-338-7752
Livingston	Mid-Central Community Action, Inc	815-844-3201
JoDavies, Stephenson	Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency	815-232-3141
Henry, Mercer & Rock Island	Project Now Community Action Agency	309-793-6391
Boone & Winnebago	Rockford Human Services Department	815-987-5701
Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, Marshall, Putnam, Stark & Whiteside	Tri-County Opportunities Council Bureau	800-323-5434
Tazwell, Woodford	Tazwood Community Services, Inc.	309-266-9941
Will	Will County Center for Community Concerns	815-722-0722 ext.3

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Source: Commonwealth Edison Company

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