



1118 S. Washington Ave
Lansing, MI 48910

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, July 13, 2015

Contact: Ross H. Yednock
Program Director, MEIC
Yednock@cedam.info
517.485.3588

As the Summer Heats Up, Michigan Residents Encouraged to Claim the Home Heating Credit Before it is Too Late

Lansing, MI – The Michigan Economic Impact Coalition, Michigan 2-1-1 and Consumers Energy are reminding Michigan residents that while winter may be long over, there is still time to claim the Michigan Home Heating Credit on money spent heating their home this past year. Eligible residents who did not claim the credit during the tax filing season have until September 30, 2015.

“The Home Heating Credit provides a real benefit to Michigan residents, no matter the season,” said Garrick Rochow, Consumers Energy’s vice president and chief customer officer. “We encourage people to make use of the state’s heating credit and other energy assistance that’s available from Consumers Energy and from many nonprofit agencies to help manage their bills.”

The Home Heating Credit can be used for all types of primary heating fuel used to heat homes during winter months, including natural gas, propane and purchased firewood. Renters may also qualify. The credit amount is based on household income and size. Last year, the average credit was \$133.

“Utility assistance is the number one reason people call 2-1-1,” said Tom Page, executive director of Michigan 2-1-1. October through December is the busiest time of year, so avoid the rush and call 2-1-1 now to learn about the Home Heating Credit and other programs that could help with your heat and electric bills.”

While some eligible residents may not be required to file a federal or state income tax return, the Home Heating Credit can only be claimed by filing form MI-1040CR-7 with the Michigan Department of Treasury. The filing deadline for 2014-2015 heating season is September 30, 2015. There are also plenty of free options for people to claim the credit.

- MORE -

- CONT -

“With heating and energy costs accounting for more and more of a family’s household budget, the Home Heating Credit can make huge difference,” said Ross H. Yednock, program director of the Michigan Economic Impact Coalition. “By claiming it now, eligible families can recover some of the costs of heating their home last year or get a jumpstart on next winter’s heating bill.”

The Michigan Home Heating Credit is funded by the federal Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and is used to offset the heating bills of eligible homeowners and renters. While the Home Heating Credit is often claimed when an eligible consumer files their taxes, many low-income consumers either are not required to file a tax return or do not know about the credit and fail to take advantage of it. As a result, thousands of eligible households in Michigan may be forgoing millions of dollars in heating assistance.

The Home Heating Credit is based on the income and size of a taxpayer’s household. For the 2014 heating season, the Home Heating Maximum Income Guidelines are:

- \$12,842 for a single person household
- \$17,379 for a two-person household
- \$21,786 for a three-person household
- \$26,243 for a four-person household
- \$30,728 for a five-person household
- \$35,186 for a six-person household
(add \$4,457 for each additional person over six)

More information on filing the Home Heating Credit is available by dialing 2-1-1 or at the following places:

- www.michigan.gov/taxes
- [The Michigan Public Service Commission](#)
- The Department of Human Services branch offices
- Consumers Energy’s Assistance
website: www.consumersenergy.com/assistance

Information on getting free assistance in filing the Home Heating Credit is available by dialing 2-1-1 or at MichiganFreeTaxHelp.org.

The Michigan Earned Income Coalition (MEIC), a program of the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM), unites individuals, organizations and local initiatives committed to supporting tax credit and asset building opportunities for Michigan families through improved access to free, quality, income tax preparation assistance. CEDAM is a nonprofit membership organization that represents hundreds of individuals and organizations committed to revitalizing and rebuilding Michigan through community economic development. For more information about CEDAM, visit cedam.info. For more information about the MEIC, visit meic.cedam.info.

###