

Extra Heating Help Offered to Missourians

(KTNC) -- It's a winter double whammy – plunging temperatures and skyrocketing home heating costs – but help is available to help Missourians stay warm.

Heather Lockard of the Missouri Association of Community Action encourages anyone who is struggling to keep the heat on this winter to apply for assistance, since the state has released millions of dollars to help families hit hard by the one-two punch.

She says there are 19 agencies covering every county in Missouri that help people determine if they qualify for those services, and if they do qualify then to be able to get the services to them.

Retail propane prices averaged about two dollars and 30-cents per gallon at this time last year, but have spiked above five dollars at times this winter. Lockard says that puts many people in a very difficult situation. She says there's concern not only that they may not have enough propane, but also whether low-income individuals will be able to afford the cost.

Missouri is one of many states that have launched an investigation into the rising propane prices, looking for any evidence of price gouging.

Also, Governor Jay Nixon has doubled the maximum amount of propane assistance Missouri families can receive through the Low-Income Energy Assistance program. Information on where to apply is available online at CommunityAction.org.