

Help Available to Tempe Households Struggling to Pay Utility Bills

Tempe Community Action Agency Stepping Up Utility Assistance Services for Households in Need

TEMPE (January 17, 2019) – When renters or homeowners are going through hard times, the utility bill often becomes lowest priority. Getting behind on utility bills can place a household at risk for disconnected electricity, gas or water services.

Fortunately for Tempe residents, help is available through Tempe Community Action Agency (TCAA). TCAA's Utility Assistance Program makes these larger expenses more manageable. The agency offers help with paying electric, gas, and water bills especially for low-income households facing a financial hardship.

With financial support from Maricopa County, City of Tempe, and local utility companies, TCAA can help pay overdue bills and prevent potential service disconnects. The agency also educates customers on various utility discount programs--and offers other services such as financial coaching and employment assistance--to help the family avoid a future crisis.

"Home energy isn't just a matter of comfort: it can be a matter of health and safety," TCAA Director of Operations Juliet Armstrong-Starkey said. "Many of the households we serve are walking a financial tightrope. They don't have enough money to weather a financial storm. Utility assistance can help prevent a disconnect while the family is working to address the situation."

Utility Assistance is particularly helpful for maintaining safe living environments for vulnerable households such as families with children and older adults with limited incomes. Utility Assistance applications can be picked up at TCAA's main office or downloaded from the agency's website.

Service requests are responded to within five business days. Funds are limited, so applications are prioritized for households with the greatest need.

For more information on TCAA's Emergency Utility Assistance services and to download an application, visit www.tempeaction.org/utilities.

###

About Tempe Community Action Agency:

Tempe Community Action Agency (TCAA)'s mission is to foster dignity and self-reliance in the economically vulnerable within the communities we serve. We help those who are struggling to obtain adequate food, shelter and income support, as well as seniors and disabled adults working to attain their highest level of independence. Acting with financial support from the community we serve, TCAA operates a food pantry, Senior Independence Program, the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Shelter (I-HELP), Community Action Program, healthy families programming, two community gardens, a Financial Opportunity Center™, and other projects and programs that serve residents seeking to improve their quality of life. For more information, please visit tempeaction.org.

TCAA is located at 2146 E. Apache Blvd, Tempe, AZ 85281.