

Neighbor to Neighbor Program Matte Article

July, 2010

Neighbor to Neighbor Program Helps Low-Income AEP Ohio Families with Electric Bill

In May 2009, AEP Ohio and Dollar Energy Fund, a non-profit hardship fund, teamed up to offer help through the Neighbor to Neighbor Program to low-income families in Ohio with disconnected electric service. In the first year of service, the Neighbor to Neighbor Program has provided over \$2.1 million in utility assistance grants to more than 8,700 low-to-middle income AEP Ohio customers. Entering its second year of service, the Neighbor to Neighbor Program continues to offer utility assistance to families struggling to make ends meet.

Through the Neighbor to Neighbor Program, eligible households can receive a grant applied directly to their AEP Ohio bill. The Neighbor to Neighbor Program is designed to be a fund of last resort for households that have exhausted all other resources, such as HEAP and PIPP, or for those that are over income for other forms of assistance. A family of four earning up to \$44,100 per year is income eligible for the Neighbor to Neighbor Program. To qualify, households must have disconnected electric service, have made a sincere effort of payment on their electric bill in the last 90 days and have a back balance.

The Neighbor to Neighbor Program is working with a network of over 120 Community Based Organizations throughout Ohio to offer application services. Full eligibility guidelines and application instructions can be found at www.aepohio.com or www.dollarenergyfund.org.

Help your neighbors in need by donating to the Neighbor to Neighbor Program. AEP Ohio will match each tax-deductible donation dollar for dollar, doubling the impact of your contribution! Give to the Neighbor to Neighbor Program by donating through your monthly AEP Ohio bill, online at www.dollarenergyfund.org or by mailing a check to Ohio Neighbor to Neighbor Program, L-3285, Columbus, OH 43266-3285. All donations to the Neighbor to Neighbor Program will assist low-income families residing in Ohio.

[Word Count: 302]

