

## Project SAFE Available In 1981

Dr. Charles E. Williams, president of the Lake County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc., (LCEO) announced today that LCEO will participate in taking applications for persons who apply for assistance in paying fuel utility bills under the State Project SAFE '81. (State Allowance For Energy).

Low-income, elderly or handicapped persons who feel they may qualify for SAFE '81 assistance should call or visit the nearest LCEO Community Service Corporation today. Local offices are:

Starke County Council on Aging, Inc., 152 W. Culver Road, Knox, Ind. 46534, 772-6055. Director, Joan Haugh.

Under the State Project SAFE '81 the State of Indiana will provide financial assistance to an estimated 218,000 families during the winter

of 1980-81 to help defray the rising cost of home energy. Total cost of the program is estimated to be \$47,931,256 of federal funds. The average assistance per household will be about \$189.00. The amount of assistance available to an eligible household will vary based upon geographic location, the type of heating fuel used, family income and whether the household is headed by an individual who is elderly or disabled.

Mr. Hogan, executive director of LCEO, stated, "Originally LCEO, by action of the Board of Directors, supported Project SAFE '81, when it opened November 17, by referring possible participants directly to utility corporations for energy assistance through Project SAFE. Last year LCEO received funds directly and was able to process 15,897 households for a total assistance of \$2,234,871 paid by LCEO to fuel vendors on behalf of eligible households. Due to large number of requests from possible participants in Northwest Indiana, LCEO, as of December 17, has

been taking applications from persons who feel they qualify, at all LCEO Community Service Corporations. Completed applications will be forwarded to the Indiana State Office of Community Services for processing."

To be eligible for assistance under this program, a family must have an annual income at or below 125% of what is known as the federal "poverty level." Income includes earnings from employment, social security benefits, pensions, unemployment compensation, savings interest and dividends, child support and regular payments from public assistance programs. Cash resulting from odd jobs, gifts or part-time work by children, such as paper routes, will not be counted as income. The annual income ceilings, adjusted for family size, are as follows:

Number in Household	Non-Farm Family	Farm Family*
1	\$ 4,738	\$ 4,063
2	6,263	5,350
3	7,788	6,638
4	9,313	7,925
5	10,838	9,213
6	12,363	10,500
each additional	1,525	1,288

\* A family that derives 50% or more of its annual income from farming.

Of the potentially eligible population, about 1/2 are families which can be preidentified by the state. There are families who now receive public assistance in the form of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), need-based programs of the Veteran's Administration (V.A.), and food stamps. These families will receive direct notification from the state advising them of their eligibility and giving them specific instructions about when, where and how to complete their enrollment. In the case of food stamp recipients, this direct notification will be limited to those who have received food stamps each month of 1980. These families will not be required to give any further evidence of eligi-

bility; they will simply provide such information about their energy suppliers as is necessary to establish credits.

Other applicants will be required to furnish evidence to their income in the form of payroll statements, social security or pension benefit statements, letters from employers, etc. In most cases, the application will require such evidence of income for the last three months. This three-month total will be multiplied by four to determine annual income.

The customer service offices of all natural gas and electric utilities will assist applicants to complete enrollment forms. Local community action agencies, area agencies for the aged, HUD regional housing counseling centers and field offices of Associated Migrants Opportunity Services have also been authorized to assist in completing enrollment forms. This will provide 227 different sites for enrollment. It is recommended that families who believe they are eligible call their local electric utility or Council on Aging to determine which site would be most accessible. It is very important that all applicants bring with them evidence of three month's income and copies of their most recent electric and fuel bills.

Notification of eligibility, the amount and the manner which credits will be applied to vendor bills on behalf of eligible households will be communicated directly to eligible households by the State Office of the Community

Services Administration.

If you are denied assistance by the State Office CSA, a procedure of appeal is available. Call the CSA State Office Project SAFE '81 toll free at 1-800-622-4973, Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or write: Project SAFE '81, 115 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46204.

### SPAGHETTI SUPPER

The Senior U.M.Y.E. is sponsoring a Spaghetti Supper at the Walkerton United Methodist Church on Sunday, January 11. Tickets can be purchased for \$3.50 a person. Donations would be welcome.

### OREGON TOWNSHIP HOMEMAKERS TO MEET

The Oregon Township Homemakers Club will meet on Tuesday, January 13, at 12:30 p.m. C.S.T. at the Koontz Lake Conservation Club. Ladies with their last names starting with G through ME are asked to bring a covered dish. If you are unable to attend the meeting send your covered dish or call one of the officers. The theme of the meeting will be to name one thing you would like to accomplish this year.

### OREGON TWP. SENIORS TO MEET JANUARY 15

The Oregon Township Senior Citizens Club will meet on Thursday, January 15 at the Koontz Lake Conservation Club at 12:30 p.m. C.S.T. All members are asked to bring in a covered dish.

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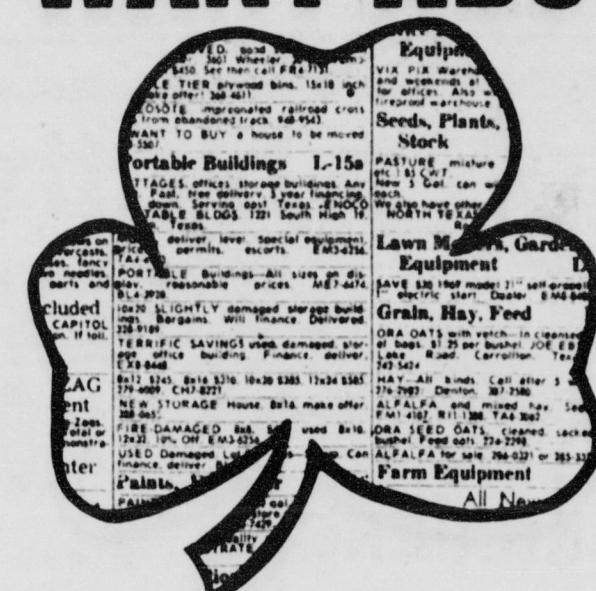
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