

Lafayette-West Lafayette, Indiana 50¢

Heating help still available past today's deadline

By Beth Hlavak
Journal and Courier

An estimated 186 Tippecanoe County residents today could lose immunity from disconnection of their natural gas services. And another 750 could face disconnection with their next utility bill, local officials say.

Throughout the winter, residents who signed up for the Energy Assistance Program were protected until March 15. But record-high bills — some as high as \$800 — prompted area service agencies to draft a plan for families in crisis.

"One of the populations it has a major impact on are the elderly and disabled who are on a fixed income," said EAP coordinator Vicki Setzer. "There are households that aren't buying proper food or medicine."

EAP is administered by the Area IV Agency on Aging

How to get help

For more information on heating assistance, call the Area IV Agency on Aging and Assistance at (765) 447-7683 or (800) 382-7556.

More / B1

■ About \$68 million available to low-income customers to help with heating bills

and Community Action Programs, which services Tippecanoe, Carroll, Clinton and White counties.

Last week, representatives from Area IV, Lafayette Urban Ministry, Salvation Army and Fairfield Township Trustee met to create a procedure for Fairfield Township residents to seek help.

Fairfield Township includes most of Lafayette and the rural area north of it, bounded by the Wabash River, Beck Lane, County Road 400 North and County Road 500 East.

To date, at least 162 Lafayette residents on the EAP had made no payment on their Indiana Gas bill since Dec. 1, said Indiana Gas spokesman Mike Roeder. Another 361 Lafayette residents were behind on their Indiana Gas bill by at least \$50, he said.

Even more Indiana Gas customers are at risk of disconnection in the next 60 days, said Mary Anderson, Lafayette Urban Ministry



By The Associated Press

ASKING FOR HELP: Demonstrators rally Wednesday on the steps of the Statehouse, asking for assistance to pay higher-than-normal energy bills that many low-income households throughout Indiana cannot afford to pay.

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