**The following information can be placed on our parish website. Also listed is a bulletin announcement.**

**Energy Assistance is available from United Community Action Partnership (UCAP)**

**New changes made to help during the COVID-19 pandemic**

The Energy Assistance Program has adjusted program policies to make it easier for households to apply and get additional help. Some policy adjustments that will mean more access to help include:

• **Income eligibility based on the past one month – This change is HUGE!!! Many new families will income qualify now.**

• **The application deadline is extended to July 1.**

• The annual crisis benefit maximum is increased to $1,200 (up from $600). Crisis benefits are for past due bills, emergency fuel deliveries.

• Allowing crisis benefits to pay a household’s past due bill, even without a disconnection notice.

Energy Assistance Program key facts

• Renters and homeowners are eligible.

• Assets such as the value of your home are not considered in determining eligibility.

• Grants range from $200 to $1,400, based on household size, income and fuel cost.

• The average grant is about $500.

• In addition to the initial grant, additional funds are available to help pay a past due bill or get an emergency fuel delivery.

• Help homeowners get their broken furnace repaired or replaced.

How to apply for the Energy Assistance Program

• Visit our website at www.unitedcapmn.org to download an application

• Call the Energy Assistance Department at 320-235-0850 (Willmar office) or 507-537-1416 (Marshall office) to request an application by mail

New applicants have until July 1 to apply. Funding is limited and administered on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Bulletin Announcement**

**Energy Assistance is available through UCAP. Call the Energy Assistance Department at 320-235-0850 (Willmar office) or 507-537-1416 (Marshall office) to request an application by mail New applicants have until July 1 to apply. Funding is limited and administered on a first-come, first-served basis. Income eligibility based on the past one month. More details are listed on the parish website.**