



*A moment to focus on the good our team is doing every day*



## UCHRA ANNOUNCES LIHEAP NUMBERS FOR JUNE 2020

UCHRA has announced the LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) numbers for the month of June. Last month, the agency provided \$118,000 in regular assistance to 260 households and \$108,550 in crisis assistance to 237 households. In total, the program provided \$226,550 in assistance to 497 Upper Cumberland households. For more information about the program, contact your local UCHRA office or call (931) 528-1127.

## *Out in the Field*

## UCDD OFFERING COVID-19 DISASTER RELIEF LOANS



The Upper Cumberland Development District recently announced the availability of COVID-19 Disaster Relief Loans.

These working capital loans of up to \$25,000 are available only to businesses and feature a 4 percent interest rate, with the first payment deferred for three months.

For more information, contact Megan Choate, Director of Lending & Economic Development ([mchoate@ucdd.org](mailto:mchoate@ucdd.org)), or Jill Osborne, Economic Development Planner ([josborne@ucdd.org](mailto:josborne@ucdd.org)), or call (931) 432-4111.

## STAR SUCCESS STORY: TONI JONES-SWAFFORD

My name is Toni Jones-Swofford and this is my success story. When I first learned of the STAR Program at Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency I was homeless, unemployed, and wanting help with higher education. Six months ago, I had nothing. I did not have a job or a car and now I have obtained both. The STAR Program and my Case Managers Balinda (Westmoreland) and Rachel (Davis) have helped me by providing me the help and resources that I needed to reach my goals. Not only do I now have a stable income but I am thriving financially and emotionally. I am also a full-time student at Strayer University. Thanks STAR Program and Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency!





During the COVID-19 pandemic, UCHRA has made adjustments to keep clients, staff, and volunteers safe while providing non-perishable items to those in need. Between April and June 2020, UCHRA's commodities program has served more than 190,790 pounds of food worth more than \$272,600 to 5,144 eligible households. "This program is especially important to the citizens of the Upper Cumberland; now more than ever due to the effects of COVID-19 on our local businesses," said Rebecca Harris, UCHRA Deputy Director and Transportation/Services Director.

UCHRA has implemented a series of safety protocols to ensure limited contact during the pandemic. These processes allow for limited in-person contact while ensuring that families in need continue to receive emergency food and nutrition assistance. For signups, clients can call into their local office and provide a staff member with the information needed for approval to receive commodities. The pickup process allows clients to drive up, check in, and have the commodities loaded into their vehicle by an attendant.

UCHRA's commodities program distributes non-perishable food items to low-income families who reside in the region's 14-county area. Funded by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the commodities program provides emergency food and nutrition assistance to low-income families. To qualify for commodities assistance, certain eligibility requirements must be met.

The recipient may show proof of eligibility for one or more of the following means-tested programs: SNAP, Families First, Supplemental Security Income, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), or documented residence in public housing. Another option is for the recipient to complete a signed self-declaration of income showing that the total amount of household income is below 185 percent of the current federal poverty income level.

The commodities program is funded under a grant contract with the State of Tennessee. For more information about UCHRA or the agency's commodities program, contact your local UCHRA office or call (931) 528-1127. A list of commodities distribution events can also be found on the UCHRA Facebook page at [facebook.com/uchumanresourceagency](https://facebook.com/uchumanresourceagency).

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY CASA OFFICE RECEIVES DONATION



Thank you, Fairfield Glade Ladies Club! The Fairfield Ladies Club recently presented a check to UCHRA's Cumberland County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) office. These funds will be used to provide 50 \$20 Walmart gift cards to foster children in Cumberland County this Christmas.

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## MESSAGES FROM THE COUNTIES: OVERTON COUNTY



I wanted to send this to you because this driver has impressed me so much. She goes above and beyond to make sure our vans are cleaned for the safety of our riders. Yesterday in the heat she cleaned not only her van but another one and was finishing it after hours. Her name is Donna Hall and she is what UCHRA and Teamwork is all about!