



FEBRUARY LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER FROM
State Rep. Stephanie Howse
House District 11

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[fb.com/RepStephanieHowse](https://www.facebook.com/RepStephanieHowse)



From the Desk of Rep. Howse



Have questions about COVID-19?

Call: (216) 201-2000

Or visit: www.ccbh.net/coronavirus/



Family Resources

Housing resources: Cuyahoga County residents who have lost income due to COVID-19 and need help paying their rent can now

call 1-833-377-7368.

They can also apply for assistance online at www.neorenthelp.org.

Utility resources: FirstEnergy and Dominion Energy are restoring service to past-due accounts.

Cleveland Water: (216) 664-3130 | Cleveland Public Power: (216) 664-4600 | First Energy / The Illuminating Company: (800) 589-3101 | Dominion Energy: (877) 542-2630 | Columbia Gas: (800) 344-4077

Senior and Adult services: For additional information on Senior and Adult Services

Call (216) 420-6700 or visit <https://hhs.cuyahogacounty.us/senior-and-adult-services>.

Student services:

For additional information on reliable high speed internet for students

Call (216) 777-3859 or visit <https://empowercle.org/>

Unemployment resources: For more information on applying for assistance, visit unemploymenthelp.ohio.gov or call

1-877-644-6562.

Dear Neighbor,

With the legislature back in full swing, I am beginning to shape policies that will drive the agenda to deliver on the promise of better lives, better jobs, and brighter futures for all of us.

This year will bring challenges and opportunity. The challenge of a global pandemic, but the opportunity to come together to get the virus under control; the challenge of lost jobs and struggling businesses, but the opportunity to build back better than we were before. We see the challenges of racial injustice, gun violence and underfunded schools, but we know we can make real progress on these issues if we're willing to come together and have real conversations.

United, I believe we can make progress on the issues facing our state. It is my hope that we will build on the successes we saw last year and continue working together to give everyday Ohioans the tools they need to live a better life.

Know that I work for you, and I am always happy to listen to the issues that matter to you and your family. Thank you again for the enormous trust you have placed in me to represent you, your family and all those who call the 11th House District home. As always, if there is anything I can do to serve you better, please reach out to me at Rep11@ohiohouse.gov or **614-466-1414**.

Yours in Service,

State Rep. Stephanie D. Howse



HEAP Helps With High Energy Costs

On Saturday, January 16, 2021 I co-hosted a Energy Expo with my colleagues Sen. Sandra Williams, Rep. Janine Boyd, Rep. Brent and Rep. Upchurch. Around 150 constituents attended the event in Cleveland. The event provided resources for constituents who needed assistance with paying their energy bill.

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a program designed to help eligible low-income Ohioans meet the high costs of home heating. HEAP is a federally funded program administered by the Ohio Development Services Agency's Office of Community Assistance (OCA). Households may be eligible for assistance from HEAP, if the household income is at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Households may be eligible for assistance from PIPP Plus if the household income is at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

An application for consideration must be submitted to the OCA office. Once your application is processed, you will receive a notification letter telling you whether or not you are eligible for bill payment assistance. If you are eligible, the amount of your benefit will depend on federal funding

levels, how many people live with you, total household income, and the primary fuel you use to heat your home. In most cases, benefits will be a credit applied to your energy bill by your utility company. This is a one-time benefit.

Please note that proof of income for the past 12 months and a copy of a recent fuel/utility bill must be submitted with your completed and signed application.

For additional information, call HEAP toll-free at (800) 282-0880 during regular business hours (7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) Monday through Friday. For the hearing-impaired with a telecommunication device for the deaf (TTD), call toll-free number (800) 686-1557.

Applications can be accessed online at:
https://development.ohio.gov/is/is_heap.htm

Mail completed and signed applications to:
HEAP
P.O. Box 1240
Columbus, Ohio 43216



Coronavirus Vaccine Update

Ohio has begun distributing vaccinations in several phases. As of January 18, 2021 444,524 Ohioans received their first dose which is 3.80% of the population.

Current Timeline (Gov. DeWine has said the timeline of these phases are tentative.):

- Jan. 19: Ohioans 80 years or older.
- Jan. 25: Ohioans 75 years or older; those with severe congenital or developmental disorders.
- Feb. 1: Ohioans 70 years of age or older; employees of K-12 schools that wish to remain or return to in-person or hybrid models (school must submit form)
- Feb. 8: Ohioans 65 years of age and older.

Priority was given to vulnerable individuals who live in congregate care settings and their staff. This group included: healthcare workers; nursing home and assisted living; Ohio's veterans homes, state psychiatric hospitals, and residential facilities for developmentally disabled.

Locations search is available at <https://vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov/>, allowing Ohioans to search by county, and ZIP code to find a provider in their area to administer the vaccine. *Walk-in appointments are not available at any site.*

The City of Cleveland has established a call center that is currently available to answer general questions pertaining to the City's vaccine distribution efforts and assist eligible individuals in scheduling an appointment to receive the vaccine.

Call Center Number: (216) 664-2222

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

