

State aid is available for home heating costs

The State has begun accepting applications for the Energy Assistance Program, to help low-income households pay home heating bills this winter.

About 10,000 households will receive benefits this year, according to the Department of Health and Social Services' Division of Public Assistance which is administering the program. Eligibility is based on household size and on monthly gross income. Recipients of Supple-

mental Security Income (SSI) automatically qualify, but still must complete an application.

Payments can be applied to home heating bills dating back to Oct. 1, 1979, for fuel, gas, propane, electricity or wood. Recipients can also receive a "line of credit" with their local vendor for future bills through June 30, 1980.

The maximum assistance available to a household for the winter is \$400 in the north, northwest and southwest regions of the state, and

\$350 in southcentral and southeast Alaska.

Applications and further information are available through the Public Assistance district offices in the urban areas, and through "fee" agents serving rural communities. Those unable to visit an office or agent can write to the program headquarters: Energy Assistance Program, Division of Public Assistance, Pouch H-07, Juneau, Alaska 99811. Decisions on eligibility will be mailed within 30 days of receipt of a completed application.