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# As End of Utility Shutoff Moratorium Nears, SNAP Fears Rush of Requests for Assistance

*Rebecca White*

2 minutes

Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners are urging those who don't have extremely urgent utility needs to wait to apply for assistance until those who are at risk of a shutoff are served.



John A Smith

myavista.com  
1 (800) 227-9187

Account Number: 0123456789  
Statement Date: 08/31/2016 Service  
Address: 1234 E Street Ave

## Bill at a Glance

Previous Balance Due	\$128.00
Payment Received on 08/15/2016 - Thank you.	128.00 CR
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0.00</b>
New Charge(s)	
Comfort Level Billing	128.00
<b>Total Amount Due This Month</b>	<b>\$128.00</b>
<b>Due Date (Applies to new charges only):</b>	<b>Sep 20, 2016</b>

**SAMPLE**

Fall is normally when utility assistance providers see a wave

of requests for help paying winter heat bills.

This year, they expect an even larger barrage starting when Governor Jay Inslee's moratorium on utility shutoffs expires next week.

Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners Director of Community Action, Carol Wertz, said the non-profit has enough federal aid relief to handle every anticipated request, but said staff can only process so many at a time.

"If they could wait until November or December, that would help take that load off at first so we could help take care of those ones that are more critical," she said.

She said those facing an imminent shutoff should apply, and those who have enough resources to hold on until the holidays should wait.

"For people, it's not if I'm going to get assistance, it's just when I'm going to get assistance," she said.

Energy assistance appointments at SNAP open today and will continue on the third Tuesday of every month. They are available online.