



For Immediate Release

November 15, 2023

For more information, contact:

Beth Russo

828.255.3066 ext. 7223

brusso@eblencharities.org

Eblen Charities and the Buncombe County Department of Health and Human Services have partnered together for over 20 years, as Eblen administered the LIEAP/CIP and EA programs on their behalf.

Nothing in life is constant but change, and at the end of November, we will be transitioning these 3 programs back to the County offices. Our small staff, combined with some of the logistical challenges of being a subcontractor rather than a government agency, has made it difficult to keep up with the increased demand for these services from our neighbors.

We believe that the transition of the administration of these programs from Eblen Charities back to Buncombe County Health and Human Services is a positive change for our county residents who utilize these programs. Having these services be administered by a subcontractor is unusual in North Carolina - 99 of the 100 counties in North Carolina keep these services housed in their County offices.

We have been honored to work with BCHHS over the years and have built strong relationships with so many of our community members and fellow nonprofit organizations through distributing these funds. However, county government has access to information and technology that Eblen doesn't, and this access means requests and funding will be more easily and quickly processed moving forward.

We know that this is a change for the community who are accustomed to coming to Eblen Charities to have their energy needs fulfilled. We expect this shift of services, once complete, will greatly benefit county residents in need, and we are assisting the County with the transition to make it as seamless as possible.

Eblen Charities will continue to offer our other services – such as our upcoming Thanksgiving meal giveaway to 800 families, our annual St. Nicholas Toy Store for children and teens in our community, and our recent Winter clothing giveaway to over 1,600 people – to care for our neighbors living in and at the edge of poverty.

To learn more about Eblen Charities work, please visit eblencharities.org