



## NEWS RELEASE

**Contacts:**

Leigh E. Morris    Victoria Busch    Neal Johnson  
1-217-535-5228    1-618-346-1286    1-309-677-5284

**Hardship Assistance Offered  
To Non-Profits, Small Businesses  
*Applications Accepted Aug. 2 through Sept. 10, 2010***

**Peoria (July 28, 2010)** – Ameren Illinois today announced a program to provide assistance to individual non-profit and other qualified organizations that have experienced financial hardships.

To qualify, a non-profit organization, school, senior center, church or other religious institution must be an Ameren Illinois customer who has continuously purchased electricity through Ameren Illinois since Jan. 1, 2009.

In addition, assistance is available to small independently owned and operated businesses that have 50 or fewer employees and have their principal office in Illinois. A small business also must be an Ameren Illinois Utilities customer who has continuously purchased electricity through Ameren Illinois since Jan. 1, 2009.

Applications to the Non-Residential Hardship Fund, which is being administered by the Energy Assistance Foundation, must be submitted between **Aug. 2 and Sept. 10**. Applications may be completed online by visiting the Ameren website ([Ameren.com](http://Ameren.com)), beginning Aug. 2. Applications also may be obtained by calling Ameren Illinois at 1-800-287-8349.

There is a limited amount of funding for the Non-Residential Hardship Fund, which was established as part of the 2007 comprehensive legislative rate relief settlement. This is the fourth and final year of the program.

Ameren Illinois (AmerenCIPS, AmerenCILCO, AmerenIP) has been providing safe, reliable energy delivery service for more than a century. Ameren Illinois delivers energy to 1.2 million electric and 813,000 natural gas customers in more than 1,200 communities within a 43,700-square-mile service territory throughout Downstate Illinois.

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