

Operation Fan Heat Relief is a special emergency assistance program to help older adult North Carolinians cope with summer heat. The project began in 1986 and is made possible by contributions from Duke Energy Progress.

Many older adults do not have electric fans or air conditioners and are highly susceptible to life-threatening situations, which could be avoided if they were able to remain cool. The fans that are collected and purchased through Operation Fan Heat Relief are given to those citizens who have the greatest need for relief from the heat. The fans are distributed by the New Hanover County Senior Resource Center and are given as a gift – they are not to be loaned or retrieved at the end of the summer. In addition, WECT’s annual fan drive, Fran’s Fans, will bring in an extra 300 fans to distribute to eligible citizens. To be eligible the client must meet the following criteria:

1. Must reside in New Hanover County.
2. Must be an adult: 60 years of age or older or with a disability.
3. Must have a home situation where a threat to health and wellbeing exists.

In 2016, over 400 fans were purchased and distributed in New Hanover County through Operation Fan Heat Relief and Fran’s Fans. We are very thankful to have support each year from Duke Energy Progress and WECT to make Operation Fan Heat Relief happen. The official kickoff to pick up fans at the New Hanover County Senior Resource Center is June 1.

For more information on Operation Fan Heat Relief, call the Senior Resource Center at 798-6400.