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Eugene non-profit to distribute free air conditioners to at-risk households this summer

by Zach Bruhl and NBC16.com Staff
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(Angela Yamamoto/SBG)

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SPRINGFIELD, Ore. — About one hundred Eugene and Springfield households could be receiving free relief from the hot temperatures hitting the area this summer.

Eugene-based "Beyond Toxics" is set to give away around a hundred free air conditioners to at-risk households in the greater Eugene/Springfield area.

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The project is funded by a 2022 senate bill that limited a landlord's ability to restrict tenants from using portable a/c units in their dwellings.

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The bill also established a grant program for local services, like beyond toxics, to provide cost-free coolers for those at an elevated risk for heat-related illness.

Paige Hopkins, climate justice organizer, Beyond Toxics, "It's, obviously, very much needed, as well. Historically, Eugene really has not had the infrastructure for air conditioning in many places, a lot of older buildings as well don't. Also, what's really exciting is these air conditioners are portable, so, a lot of the time, they are more renter friendly than the ones that go in the window."

The program will be prioritizing people who have no existing cooling devices, as well as people who are on Medicare and Oregon Health Plan.



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If you are interested in seeing if you are eligible for a free a/c contact Beyond Toxics.