



The National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition

LIHEAP needs at least \$4.7 billion in FY17

LIHEAP Funding Down 33% from FY10 to FY15

| Fiscal Year | National Total |
|------------------|----------------|
| 2017 (President) | \$3.00 billion |
| 2016 (est.) | \$3.39 billion |
| 2015 | \$3.39 billion |
| 2014 | \$3.42 billion |
| 2013 | \$3.25 billion |
| 2012 | \$3.47 billion |
| 2011 | \$4.71 billion |
| 2010 | \$5.10 billion |

| State ¹ | Households Eligible (5 year average) | Households Served (FY15) | % Households NOT Served (FY15) |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| United States | 35,372,539 | 6,510,824 | 82% |

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides critical home heating and cooling help to millions of vulnerable American families. After long underfunding LIHEAP, Congress appropriated \$5.1 billion for the program in FY09 and FY10, and \$4.7 billion in FY11. Since then, funding has fallen to \$3.39 billion in FY16. As a result, more than one million eligible US households are not receiving assistance each year, and individual grants have been reduced from an average of \$520 to \$413 per year. This is occurring even while the number of at-risk households remains virtually unchanged from their all-time highs.²

Why Fund LIHEAP at \$4.7 Billion?

LIHEAP is Not an Entitlement:

Unlike entitlement programs that receive funding increases with growth in the eligible population, LIHEAP is funded by the annual congressional appropriations process. While states set eligibility rates, the income *maximum* is 150 percent of the federal poverty guideline or 60 percent of a state’s median income. For example, 150 percent of the FY17 poverty guideline for a family of three is \$30,135.³ Most LIHEAP recipients earn much less than the maximum thresholds: the most recent data show that a typical LIHEAP recipient household had a median income of 83.5 percent of the federal poverty guideline.⁴

The Need for LIHEAP Remains High:

In 2014, the national poverty rate was 14.8 percent, and 46.7 million Americans lived in poverty. These numbers, at or near all-time US highs, have been virtually unchanged since the end of the recession.⁵

LIHEAP Prioritizes Vulnerable Households:

State LIHEAP administrators report that nearly 73 percent of LIHEAP recipient households had at least one vulnerable person – a senior age 60 or older, a child age 5 and under, or an individual with a disability.⁶

LIHEAP Helps Veterans:

LIHEAP recipient households containing a veteran jumped 150+ percent over three years – from about 700,000 in FY08 to 1.78 million in FY11.⁷

NEUAC’s Recommendation to Congress: NEUAC urges Congress to restore LIHEAP to at least \$4.7 billion, to concentrate funds in base grants, and to reject efforts that siphon appropriated funds from LIHEAP’s core energy-assistance mission.

¹ Eligible Households developed using most recent 5-year (2010-2014) ACS PUMS File. Households Served from state reports.

² US Census Bureau: “Income and Poverty in the United States: 2014” <http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2015/demo/p60-252.pdf>; NEADA Purchasing Power Table <http://neada.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/purchasingpower1216.pdf>

³ LIHEAP IM 2015-03 <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/resource/liheap-hhs-poverty-guidelines-for-optional-use-in-fy-2015-and-mandatory-use-in-fy-2016>

⁴ HHS FY2017 Budget Justification

⁵ “Income and Poverty in the United States: 2014”

⁶ NEADA 2014 LIHEAP Household Report <http://neada.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/State-Table-FY14-Households-Served.pdf>

⁷ “LIHEAP Recipients by Veteran Status” http://neada.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/LIHEAP_Veteran_Study_V3.pdf