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NATIONAL ENERGY & UTILITY AFFORDABILITY COALITION

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SAVES LIVES

Support FY 2024 funding to ensure ongoing access to energy

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a critical, life-saving program that targets and serves the most vulnerable — older Americans, individuals with disabilities, and children. The majority of these families and individuals survive on less [than \\$20,000 per year](#); many are on fixed incomes. Their pay does not increase when the cost of heating and cooling their homes increases.

LIHEAP is a lifeline for these families. LIHEAP protects people from extreme air temperatures and keeps electricity flowing to appliances and home heating and cooling equipment. LIHEAP helps ensure access to life-critical energy as families struggle with kitchen table budgets that are increasingly difficult to balance.

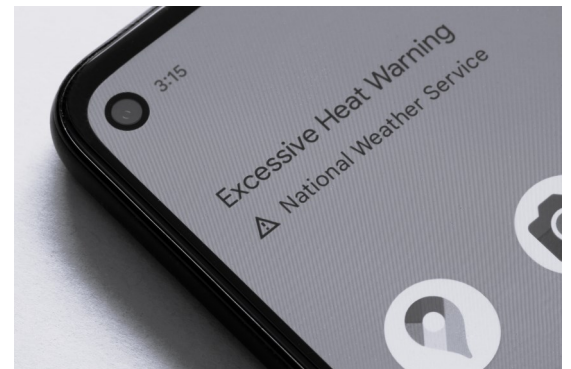
Current events support the need for LIHEAP...

- Record-breaking triple-digit heat has plagued Texas during the month of June, [leading to the deaths of at least 9 people](#). LIHEAP provides life-saving access to cooling assistance during deadly heat domes.
- Over two weeks in June, 130 people in Dallas County, TX were treated by emergency departments for heat-related illness, [county data shows](#). That is more than double the number of cases the county had in [all of June](#) last year.
- More than 76 million people were under an [excessive heat warning](#) this summer during the Texas-area heat dome.
- [Outdoor air quality alerts are forcing people indoors](#) with windows closed during the hottest part of summer. For those suffering with chronic respiratory conditions, LIHEAP provides access to electricity for life-saving equipment.

Our request to you...

Please protect seniors, children, those with disabilities, veterans and other vulnerable persons by protecting LIHEAP funding.

The implications are clear. LIHEAP provides energy security for millions of homes and ensures access to heating and cooling that are critically important. Maintain access for eligible households to indoor heating and cooling by protecting LIHEAP.



THE CASE FOR LIHEAP

Protect the vulnerable, address humanitarian needs for energy access

Energy remains unaffordable for many Americans

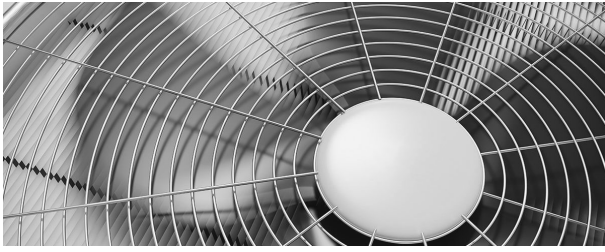
- The average limited-income household's [energy burden is three times that of other households](#).
- For families with annual incomes of less than \$35,000, [more than half reported they reduced or went without medicine or food](#) at least once in the previous 12 months in order to pay an energy bill.
- [LIHEAP restored power or prevented disconnection](#) 3,226,500 times in FY 2022.

LIHEAP protects those most vulnerable from extreme heat and cold

- [32,000 children were lifted out of poverty](#) because of energy assistance in 2021.
- [41,000 people age 65 or older were lifted out of poverty](#) because of energy assistance in 2021.
- In FY21, [58,079 homes were weatherized](#) with LIHEAP funds, improving the health and safety and affordability for those households.
- Three out of 10 households receiving LIHEAP [used their kitchen stove to heat their home](#) at least once in the year preceding assistance. **LIHEAP helps families avoid dangerous heating practices in winter.**
- One in four households receiving LIHEAP could not afford to address the [non-functioning furnace or cooling system](#) in their homes. **LIHEAP helps repair and replace broken systems, keeping homes safe and energy efficient.**
- In 2021: Hurricane Ida led to [91 deaths across nine states](#). Winter Storm Uri [killed 259 people and was the costliest U.S. natural disaster on record](#). The Pacific NW experienced the [deadliest heat wave in the region's history](#). **LIHEAP promotes resiliency during weather-related disasters like hurricanes, heat domes, and polar vortices.** LIHEAP saves lives.

Consistency is key in addressing energy insecurity

- [The rising costs of energy and other resources are having an impact on affordability](#). Ongoing support is necessary to continue to address the serious implications of energy insecurity.
- Year-round programming that includes **both heating and cooling assistance** is becoming increasingly necessary.
- Crisis presents a persistent and insidious state of emergency for LIHEAP families. **Consistent and comprehensive funding** ensures warm families in the winter, and safe, cool homes in the summer.



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