# Beyond Statistics: Telling the story of LIHEAP

'A picture is worth a thousand words.'

Dipping Your Toes into Digital

Online components of activism can be as simple as asking #WhyLIHEAP

## Who is online? An evolving question

As of 2015, 84% of American Adults Use the Internet

- Source: Pew Internet and American Life Project

<u>Not</u> a coincidence that ~15% of people in the United States each year live below the poverty line

Advocating online for energy assistance is just like the support of increased funding - we're there to facilitate access to what's lacking.

## It's easier to play on a team



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Love #LIHEAP #ActionDay? So do we! Listen to stories of this year's attendees: liheap.org/? p=3310



## The Campaign joined forces with Team Missouri this year.

# Don't make Digital (Online) Strategy Complex



## Attention and Amplification

Follow

## A popular advocate



#WhyLIHEAP ? Because it makes the difference for those who need it most. #NEUAC



LIHEAP @LIHEAPCampaign · Jun 5

RT @IllinoisCAA: LIHEAP is critical in preventing homelessness b/c families without utilities can get evicted from their homes. #SaveLIHEAP



Elevating someone else's message for the

### same cause

## Join #WhyLIHEAP or Create Something New

**Examples:** 

**Twitter** - short and effective: 'Because in TX, 1 in 3 recipients is a military veteran. Fight for those who fight for us. #WhyLIHEAP'

**Facebook** - can include a photo (recommended): *'Nationally, only 1 in 5 income-eligible families for the LIHEAP program is currently receiving any sort of Energy Assistance funding. Many of these are at-risk households with elderly individuals, children under 5, or people with compromised health. #WhyLIHEAP'* 

# Parallel Paths

### $\bullet \bullet \bullet$

Leveraging powerful partnerships strategically to change the conversation around LIHEAP

## A World With LIHEAP, A World Without LIHEAP

We can't simply report numbers anymore  $\rightarrow$ 

What will move people to action?

How can we tell the story better, frame it differently  $\rightarrow$ 

Add the human element

When you have limited time and finite resources  $\rightarrow$ 

Medium on a budget at low-level production (Video - short)

Critical partner to making this a reality  $\rightarrow$ 



Parallel paths video draft

LIHEAP\_ParallelPaths\_v1.mp4

## Telling the Story of the Funding Need - The 'Gap'

What is the bottom line we're trying to convey?

The difference between having the funds vs not is life-altering for people in need

Who is your audience?

Elected officials? Constituents/consumers? (Possibly donors?)

Who gets involved?

From an aspect of conveying stories, from funding perspective

Collaboration benefits everyone

## Contact us - all of us! And more: bit.ly/energyconvo

Energy Outreach Colorado - <u>www.energyoutreach.org</u> (Jennifer Gremmert)

The Campaign for Home Energy Assistance - <u>www.liheap.org</u> (Michael Bracy, Julie Beltz)

NiSource - <u>www.nisource.com</u> & Columbia Gas - <u>www.columbiagas.com</u> (Deb Davis, Tammy Ravier)

Youth on Record - <u>www.youthonrecord.org</u> (Jami Duffy, Adrian Molina)



Energy Outreach Colorado with Youth on Record Storytelling







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Thank you to the staff at EOC and



www.EnergyOutreach.org

www.YouthOnRecord.org

