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Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) protects access to utilities and fuel

Support LIHEAP to ensure health and safety in American homes

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is one of the most critical components of the social safety net. The program provides heating and cooling assistance to households experiencing economic or medical crises, or otherwise vulnerable to unsafe indoor temperatures. LIHEAP is an exceptionally efficient and targeted program, with state block grants flowing to local agencies to eligible households on a short-term basis to prevent utility disconnections or provide assistance with the cost of heating and cooling homes.

The National Energy & Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC) along with our dedicated partners strongly urge Congress to provide adequate funding for LIHEAP in Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) in order to protect access to energy and fuel for families struggling with kitchen table budgets that are increasingly difficult to balance. In FY23, [LIHEAP successfully obligated more than 95%](#) of the \$6.1 billion funds appropriated by Congress, and served [nearly 6 million households](#).

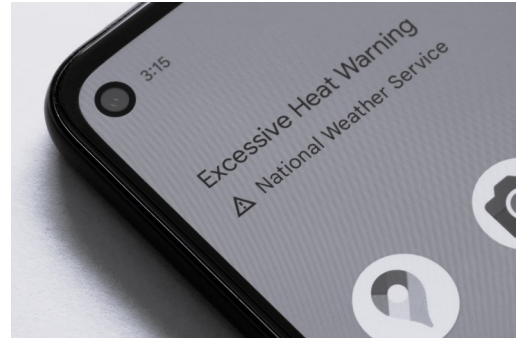
Current events support the need for LIHEAP...

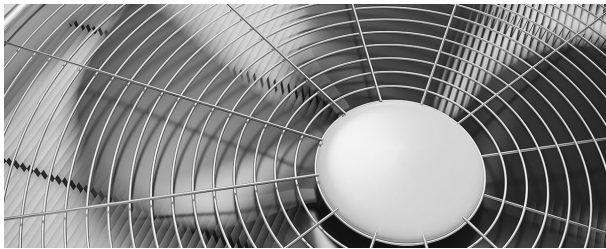
- Unusually hot summer temperatures have become [more common](#) across the contiguous 48 states in recent decades, extreme heat events have become [more frequent and intense](#), and these trends are expected to continue. As a result, the risk of heat-related deaths and illness is also expected to [increase](#). **LIHEAP needs more funds to address life-critical cooling assistance.**
- [Outdoor air quality alerts triggered by wildfires forced people indoors](#) during the summer of 2023, with windows closed during the hottest part of summer. For those suffering from chronic respiratory conditions, this can be an especially dangerous situation. **LIHEAP keeps electricity flowing to respiratory and home health equipment.**
- [Extreme weather events are increasing](#) in both frequency and intensity. **LIHEAP provides access to utility assistance during both deadly heat domes and winter freezes.**

Our request to you...

Please protect seniors, children, those with disabilities and other vulnerable persons by maximizing FY25 LIHEAP appropriations at \$5.1 billion.

LIHEAP provides energy security for millions of households, ensures access to critical home heating and cooling, provides weatherization to improve home energy efficiency, addresses energy crises, and protects families in their own homes.





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](#).
- One in four Americans reports [foregoing basic needs](#) like food and medicine to pay an energy bill.
- [LIHEAP restored power or prevented disconnection](#) 2,757,200 times in FY23.

LIHEAP protects those most susceptible to the dangerous effects of extreme heat and cold

- In FY23 [60,818 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 the 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 HVAC systems, keeping homes safe and energy efficient.
- [34,000 children](#) were lifted out of poverty because of energy assistance in 2022.
- [48,000 people age 65 or older](#) were lifted out of poverty because of energy assistance in 2022.
- America has been plunged into a [deadly heat wave](#) this summer. Extreme weather threatens the health and safety of vulnerable households, setting them back financially. LIHEAP promotes resiliency during weather-related disasters like heat domes, floods, hurricanes, and polar vortexes.

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 homes are safe and remain connected to utilities during times of extreme heat and cold.

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