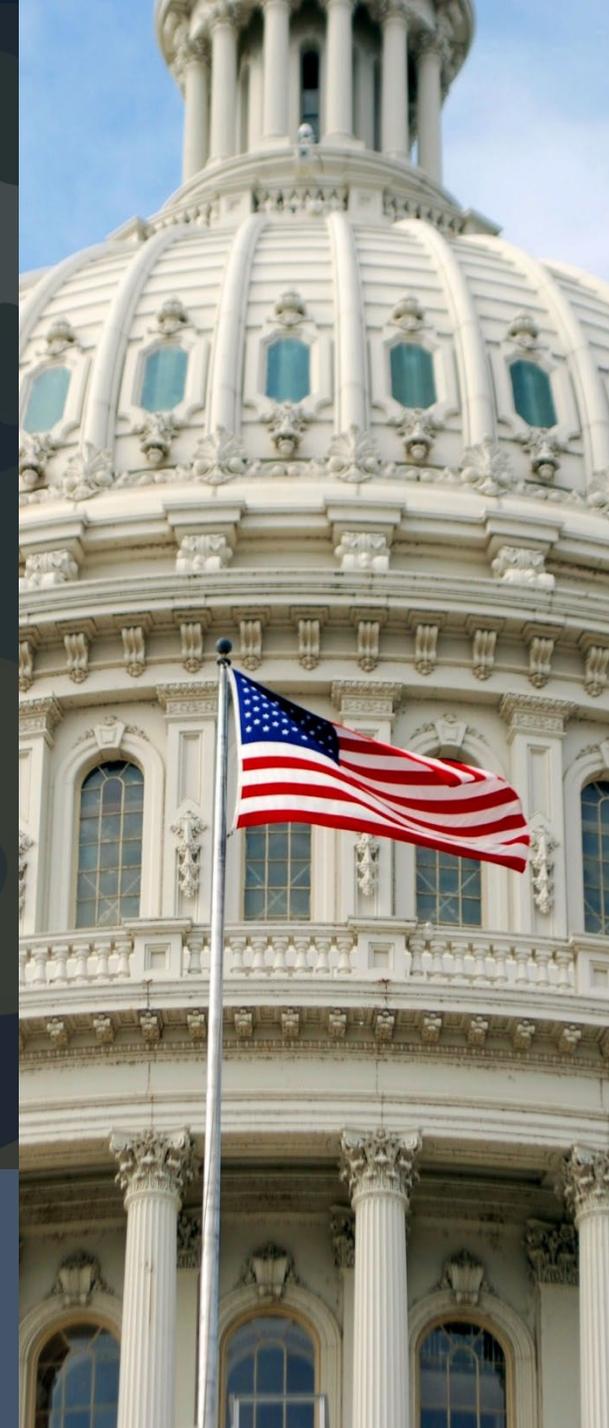


ADVOCACY BOOT CAMP

State Team Meetings and Policy Update



February 19, 2026 | Zoom Meeting



Introduction to NEUAC

Take Action, End Energy Poverty

The **National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC)** is a broad-based coalition of diverse members dedicated to heightening awareness of the energy and utility affordability needs of vulnerable households, fostering public-private partnerships, and engaging in advocacy, education, and other activities to help address these needs.

NEUAC's vision is for all people to have access to the energy and utility resources they need to live in a safe and healthy way.

Goals

- To increase awareness and understanding of the nature and magnitude of income-constrained energy problems
- To formulate and advance income-constrained energy policy
- To provide information and technical assistance in the creation and development of fuel funds

Thank you...



- Erin Mao, NEUAC Operations Director
- Annie Doran, NEUAC Systems Analyst

- Kate Brownlee, AGA
- Ben Jackson, EEI
- PP&A Committee

- NEUAC Board of Directors and
- Executive Committee

- State Team Leaders

Thank you, NEUAC Sponsors!

Legacy



Champion



neuac

NATIONAL ENERGY & UTILITY AFFORDABILITY COALITION

Thank you, NEUAC Sponsors!

Supporter



Friend



Patron



**Advocacy is making
sure decisionmakers
see the whole frame.**

Now entering bootcamp...

Katrina Metzler

Executive Director

Drill Sergeant 😊



What is LIHEAP Action Day?

- National fly-in advocacy event in support of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Brings together utilities, nonprofits and other stakeholders
- Training, talking points
- Meetings with legislators



Lobbying vs. Advocacy

Are you talking about...

Are you trying to...

Is your focus...

Are you meeting with...

| Advocacy | Lobbying |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Issues? | Legislation? |
| Educate? | Influence? |
| Programs? | Appropriations? |
| The Public? | Legislative Offices? |

Action Day 2026 By the Numbers

(approximate)

- Registered attendees **303 from 45 states + DC**

281 NEUAC Members

- Attendee characteristics

22 Non-Members

- 77 Nonprofits**

- 2 Governments**

- 203 Utilities**

- 2 Corporations**

- 8 Trades**

- 4 Tribes**

- 7 Individuals**

- Legislative meetings **135+**

- All Parties Letter **734 unique signers**

1,027 total signatures

LARGEST STATE TEAMS

- Michigan - 20**
- Texas - 19**
- Massachusetts - 18**
- Florida - 17**

MOST MEETINGS

- Florida - 12**
- Pennsylvania - 11**
- Michigan - 10**

STATE WITH MOST ALL PARTIES LETTER SIGNATURES

- Florida - 143**

Policy 101

All the things you want to know, but are too afraid to ask

- What if a question arises and I don't know the answer?
- What is a Dear Colleague letter and how does it help?
- How is it different from the All Parties Letter (aka Open Letter to Congress in support of LIHEAP)?
- Where should I eat lunch?
- How do I find the offices? Where am I even going?
- How do I read these (confusing!) room numbering systems for offices?
- What if there's a long line at security?
- What if I get lost?

- Scan QR code or visit tinyurl.com/NEUAC-LAD to download the app
- Login with the email you used to register
- View your appointments in the Agenda
- Appointments are still being added
- Email Annie with questions adoran@neuac.org or visit Whova Guide [here](#)

Join us on our official event app!

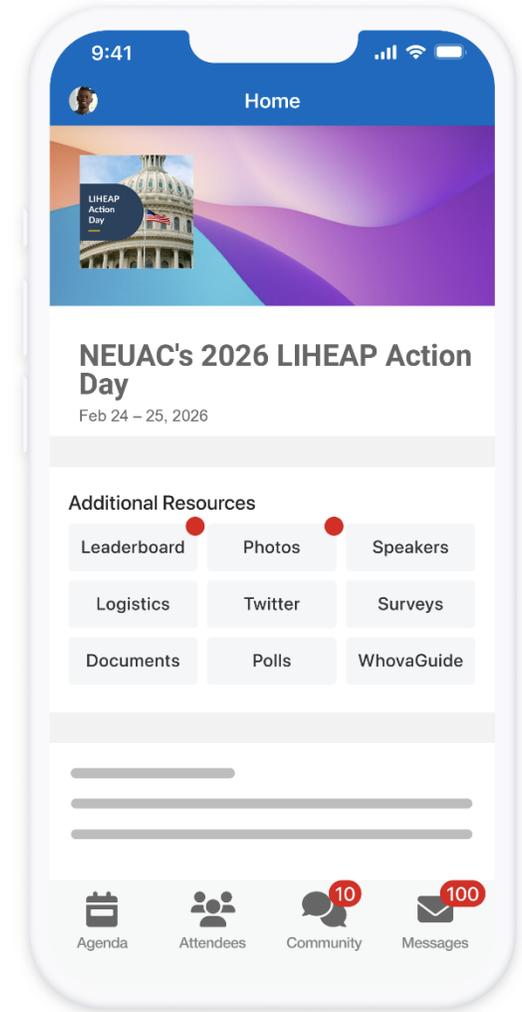
We're using [Whova](#) as our official event app. Download the app and join our event to:

- ➔ Personalize your agenda
- ➔ Receive event updates and notifications
- ➔ Connect with other attendees
- ➔ Create and join meet-ups



Scan this code for the link or search "Whova - Event and Conference App" on the App Store or Google Play.

Event Invitation Code: 6l0mmp9wx4



LIHEAP Action Day Schedule

February 24



| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | I | N | G | O |
|---|---|---|---|---|

Day One: State Team Meetings and Policy Update

11:00 AM Registration Opens - Hart Senate Office Building, Room 902 (SH-902) - Take the NORTH ELEVATORS

12:00 PM Lunch – Provided

12:45 PM Welcoming Remarks, LIHEAP Champions
Sen. Jack Reed (RI), champion for LIHEAP, will join us to deliver opening remarks

1:30 PM Policy Update
Kate Brownlee and Ben Jackson, NEUAC PP&A Committee Co-Chairpersons

2:30 PM Legislative Panel on LIHEAP
Invited: Staff Members from House and Senate LIHEAP Champions' offices

3:00 PM State Team Strategy Meetings

Later, join us for a watch party at the Hyatt during State of the Union speech

LIHEAP Action Day Schedule

February 25

Day Two: LIHEAP Action Day on Capitol Hill

8:00 AM Drop-in for Breakfast – Provided
(American Gas Association, 400 N. Capitol Street, 4th Floor)

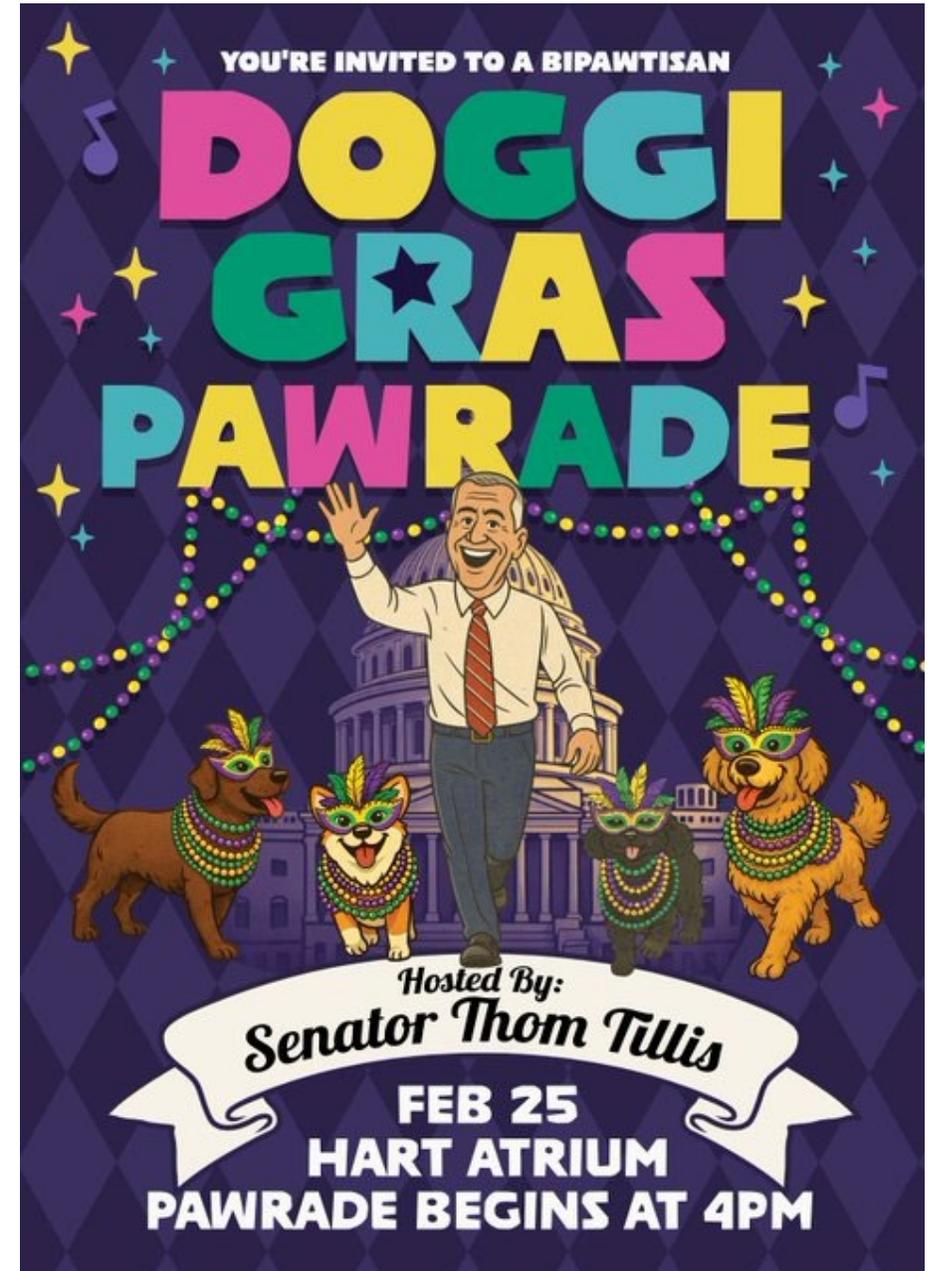
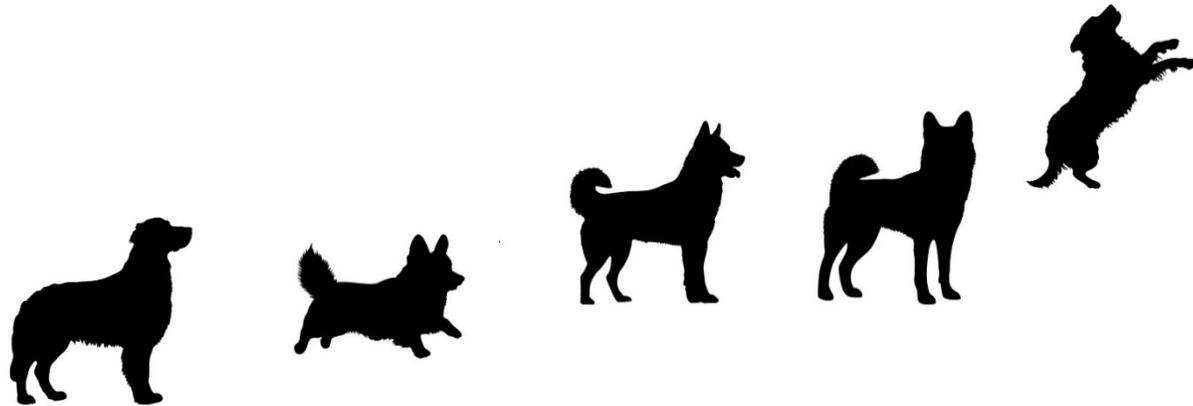
9:00 AM Disperse to Capitol Hill visits

Lunch on your own

5:30 PM Legislative Reception on the Hill
(Rayburn Cafeteria, RHOB 2063)

7:30 PM Depart

Dog Days of Congress? 😊



LIHEAP FFY 2026: The funding “ask”

Total Funding FFY 2026: \$4.145 billion
\$4.025 billion regular LIHEAP
\$20 million increase
\$100 million IIJA (final year of this allocation)

Where we stand: \$3.7 billion has been released
Remainder expected early March

Ask for FFY 2027: \$5.1 billion

Maximize funding for LIHEAP at \$5.1 billion, the highest previously authorized level for the program.



Core Messaging

- LIHEAP is a critical, life-saving and life-protecting program
- Targets the most vulnerable households, including older adults, people with disabilities and chronic health conditions, and families with young children
- Many live on a fixed income – their resources do not increase as the cost of living increases
- Your constituents are making difficult choices daily between food, medicine, or utilities

- LIHEAP stabilizes families
- LIHEAP keeps electricity flowing for life-saving medical equipment
- LIHEAP helps prevent disconnection and restores fuel or connection to power in crisis situations
- LIHEAP weatherizes home as a preventive measure
- LIHEAP protects dignity by helping customers pay their bills in full and on time

Three “asks” for LIHEAP Action Day

1. Protect LIHEAP

- Administration’s zero LIHEAP proposal is not tenable
- Health and safety of our friends, family, and neighbors depends on it
- Whether temps are 110°F or -20°F, LIHEAP can prevent disconnection and help reconnect life-saving utility services

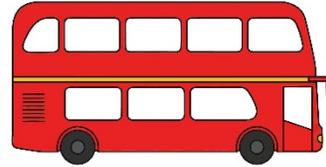
2. Improve Funding

- The need for heating and cooling year-round programs persists
- Economy may be improving in some areas, but not for those on fixed incomes

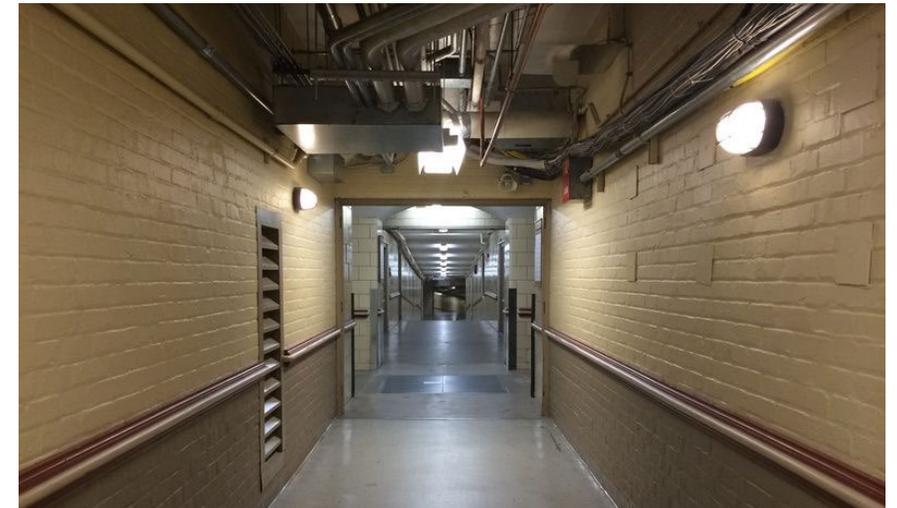
3. Funding level

- Current regular funding is \$4.045 billion (IIJA will sunset for FFY 2027)
- There is persistent unmet need – LIHEAP serves only 1/5 eligible households nationally with the current funding, but in some states that number can be as low as 1/40
- Congress can show support by signing the circulating Dear Colleague letters

Capitol Tunnels



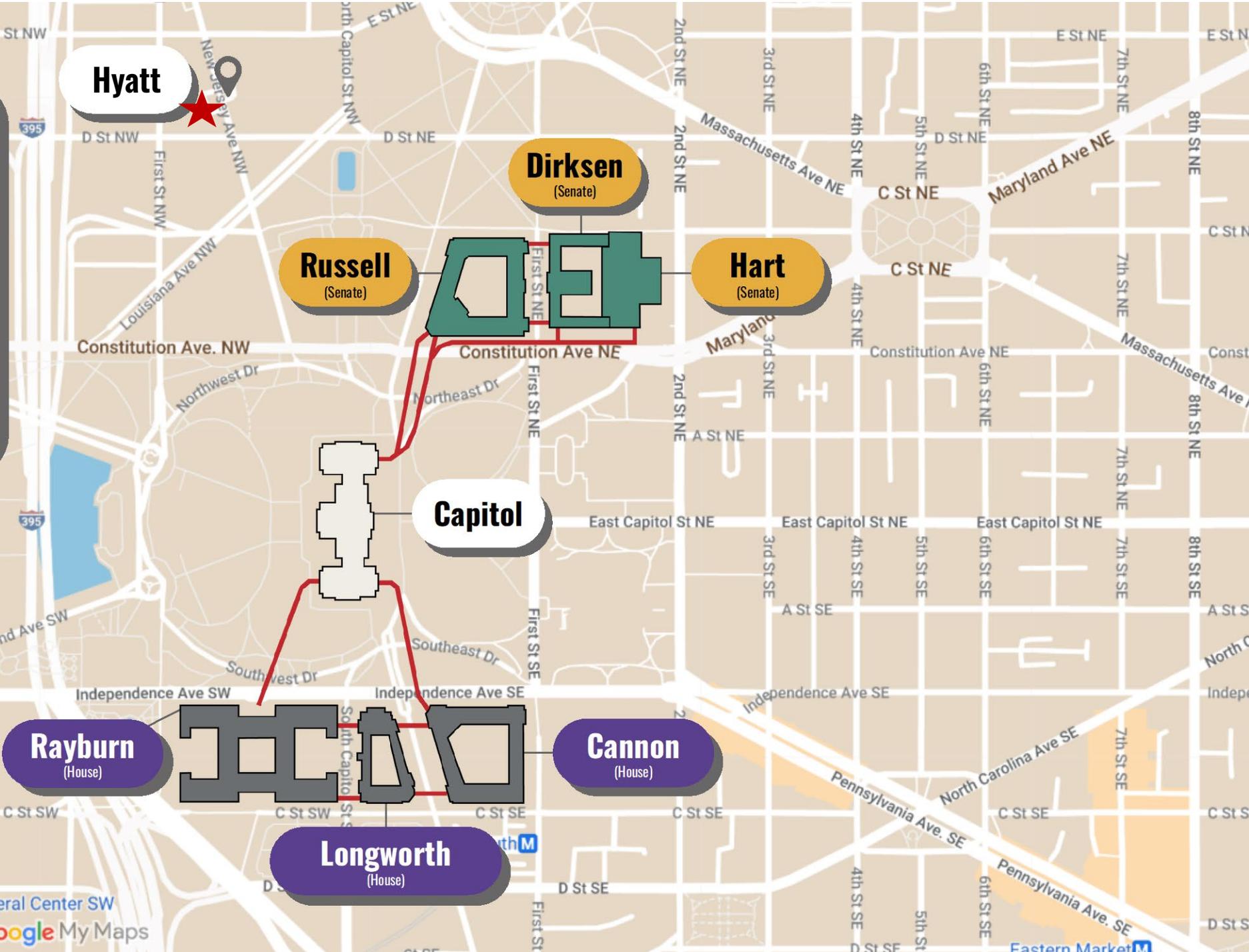
- The buildings on the House and Senate sides are connected by underground tunnels:
 - Cannon, Longworth, and Rayburn are connected by tunnels
 - Russell, Dirksen, and Hart are connected by tunnels
- To go from the House to the Senate, there is no tunnel. You have to go outside and walk between the buildings, then go through security again.
- It makes sense to schedule House meetings as a block, by building, and Senate meetings as a block, by building.



LIHEAP Action Day Map

Capitol Hill | Washington, D.C.

 Tunnels



What is LIHEAP?

How much does my state receive?

How many households were served?

Your response?



New! LIHEAP State Sheets

New Jersey

LIHEAP FY2024 Profile

249,714

Total Households Served

1 in 4

Eligible Households Served

1,003,863

Eligible Population*

\$84,830

Income Eligibility Requirements[†]
for a 4-person household

\$142,405,016

Total Funding Available

31,755

Times LIHEAP Restored Service
or Prevented Disconnection

70%

Households served include
a vulnerable member

57,029

Households served with
a disabled member

37,063

Households served
with a child 5 or younger

119,012

Households served
with a senior

Types of Assistance[§]

Heating

237,983

Households
Served

\$388

Average Benefit

Crisis

19,211

Households
Served

Cooling

45,624

Households
Served

\$500

Average Benefit

Weatherization

675

Households
Served

28%

Households that cut back on
food or medicine to afford
energy bills[‡]

13%

Households that kept their
home at unsafe temperatures
due to energy costs[‡]

24%

Households that couldn't pay
an energy bill at least once in
the past year[‡]

2%

Average annual reduction in
household energy burden
after receiving LIHEAP

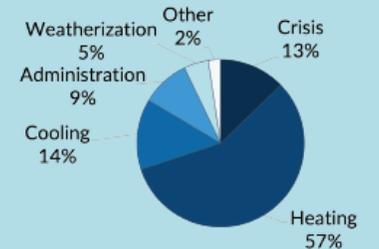
Annual Funds, 2018 - 2024

(\$ millions)



2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024

Use of Funds



Arrivals – How to get to Capitol Hill

- **Heel-toe express:** Free
- **Uber or Lyft:** \$20+, +tip
- **FYI Metro Directions**
 - To go to the Senate side, take the Red line to the Union Station stop and exit on the Massachusetts Ave. side. Walk out the front of Union Station, around the fountain, through the park to the Senate office buildings.
 - To get to the House side, take the blue or orange line. Exit at Capitol South. The three House office buildings will be across the street, directly in front of you.

Side Note

- Metro to Reagan National Airport (DCA), take the yellow or blue lines
- Metro to Dulles International Airport (IAD), take the silver line

Getting through Capitol Hill Security

- House: If the lines at the Independence Avenue entrances seem long, go to New Jersey Avenue SE, South Capitol Street SE, and C Street SW to find the lesser used entrances.
- Senate: If the lines at the Constitution Avenue entrances seem long, go to Delaware Avenue NE and First Street NE to find the lesser used entrances.
- When going through security...
 - Place your bag on the conveyor belt to be x-rayed
 - Remove wallets, belts, jackets, phones
 - Shoes that contain any metal may need to be removed and placed on the conveyor belt before walking through the metal detectors
 - Technically, no outside food or drink is permitted in the Capitol Complex – get your coffee onsite is recommended



Don't go hungry

House Office Buildings

- The Longworth Cafeteria (B223)
- Dunkin Donuts/Baskin Robbins (Longworth B219)
- Jamba (Longworth B224A)
- Rayburn House Cafeteria (2063)
- Steak & Shake (Rayburn 2063)
- Subway (Rayburn Rayburn 2025)
- Au Bon Pain (Cannon 192)
- SweetGreen (Cannon, Rayburn)
- Common Grounds House Specialty Coffee (Cannon Basement)



Daily: Famous Senate Bean Soup

Senate Office Buildings

- Cups & Company (Russell, SRB-65)
- Dirksen Café (Dirksen, SDB-R7)
- Inside Scoop (Dirksen, SDG-21A)
- The Coffee Shop (SDB-R7)

- *Vending machines also are available*

Do bring:

- Business cards
- Government issued ID
- Comfy shoes
- Dress for the weather
- Advocacy materials (state sheets or other educational items)

Don't bring:

- Large bags exceeding the size of 18" wide x 14" high x 8.5" deep
- Firearms to include replica guns and ammunition
- Weapons or explosives
- Pointed objects to include, but not limited to, knitting needles, letter openers, or other pointed objects deemed a possible threat (pens and pencils are permitted)
- Sealed envelopes and packages
- Cans, bottles, food, and food containers, including liquids

Building Numbers

Senate

All office numbers contain two letters and three digits. The letters indicate the building. The first is the floor number, followed by the office number.

Example: SD 145 is Senate Dirksen, floor 1, room 45

House

House offices have three or four numbers. Any four digit office number starting with a 1 is located in Longworth. Any four digit office number starting with a 2 is located in Rayburn. Three digit office numbers are located in Cannon.

Example: LH 1223 is in Longworth, second floor, room 23

| Abbr | Office Building |
|------|-----------------|
| SR | Russell Senate |
| SD | Dirksen Senate |
| SH | Hart Senate |
| - | Cannon House |
| 1 | Longworth House |
| 2 | Rayburn House |

Why are electric rates so high and how can LIHEAP address this for utility customers?

Your response?



Anatomy of an Advocacy Meeting

- Introductions
 - *Brief, make a personal connection if you have one*
- Answer: What is LIHEAP?
- Make it LOCAL - Present how the program serves constituents in their district/state.
- Answer: What made YOU come here today?
- What do you want from the member?
- Ask: Do you have any questions for us?
- Repeat back any action items or outstanding questions if applicable, and the plan to address them.
- Thank them.

When talking to Democrats

Weatherization

LIHEAP protects health and safety

LIHEAP works with other social services
safety net programs to wraparound services

LIHEAP helps those **most vulnerable**;
children, older adults, those with disabilities
and chronic health challenges

Extreme weather events are becoming more
common, LIHEAP can help

Provide stories and data

When talking to Republicans

LIHEAP keeps rates low for everyone

Reagan-era block grant, lets states decide

LIHEAP serves **hardworking Americans**
trying to make ends meet

Low administrative burden – just 10 percent
of LIHEAP is used to administer the program

LIHEAP takes **accountability** seriously by
ensuring that tax dollars go straight to utility
bills

LIHEAP looks after **seniors, veterans**, families

Provide data and stories

Example: Congresswoman Nancy Mace

Congresswoman Mace, born in Fort Bragg and raised in the Lowcountry. Raised by a retired Army General and a retired school teacher, Mace learned the value of hard work early on. After leaving high school at 17, she began her journey in the workforce, starting as a waitress at the Waffle House on College Park Road in Ladson.

Despite this early setback, Mace's determination led her to achieve academic excellence. She graduated magna cum laude from The Citadel, making history as the first female graduate from its Corps of Cadets in 1999. Continuing her education, she earned a master's degree from The University of Georgia in 2004.

She advocates for economic policies that strengthen the nation's economy while opposing tax hikes and harmful regulations. Her dedication extends to curbing wasteful government spending, earning her the 2023 White Coat Waste Warrior Award. Additionally, her commitment to education and job training for the underprivileged earned her the Champion Award from Palmetto Goodwill, alongside an impressive 97% rating with Conservation Voters of South Carolina.

An accomplished author, Mace penned "In The Company of Men: A Woman at The Citadel," published by Simon & Schuster in 2001. Building on her diverse experiences, she established her own company in 2008, specializing in technology, PR & marketing, and commercial real estate.

Example: Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick

From Bucks County, to the FBI, to the Halls of Congress, Brian Fitzpatrick has built his life and career around one principle: bringing people together to solve problems. Born and raised in the heart of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District in Levittown, Brian serves the very community that shaped him—delivering results at home while building consensus in Washington.

Ranked the #1 most bipartisan Member of Congress for an unprecedented five consecutive years, and as the elected Chairman of the Bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus, the only two-party caucus in Congress, Brian has become the national standard-bearer for unity, trusted on both sides of the aisle to tackle the toughest challenges facing our nation.

A licensed attorney, CPA, and EMT, Brian co-chairs nearly 20 caucuses and task forces—including the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Task Force, the House Cancer Caucus, the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, and the Congressional Ukraine Caucus—leading bipartisan reforms to deliver for Pennsylvania's First District, hold government accountable, strengthen America's workforce, grow our local economy, expand access to care, drive critical research, safeguard our seniors and children, and reinforce America's leadership on the world stage.

Why is LIHEAP advocacy needed?

For FY 2024...

of households eligible for LIHEAP: **32,669,997**

of households that received LIHEAP: **5,876,646**

Only **18%** of the total eligible population received LIHEAP (<1/5)

70% of LIHEAP households have at least one older person, disabled person, or child

Federal Appropriations Key Words

- **Regular (or 'Annual') Appropriations:** The 12 regular appropriations bills Congress is supposed to pass annually by Oct. 1 to fund the government for the next fiscal year:
- **Supplemental Appropriations:** additional “regular” appropriations is used when need for additional funds is urgent and can't wait until the next regular annual appropriations act.
- **Continuing Resolutions:** Continuing Resolutions needed to prevent government shutdowns.

Talking Points

Building the case for LIHEAP

Protect the vulnerable, address humanitarian needs for energy and fuel access

Energy burden has become a central driver of affordability in America

- Low-income households spent on average 17.8% of their income on energy alone in 2022, almost four times the national average.¹
- More than 1/3 of Americans (34.3%) have reported cutting back on or skipping necessary expenses at least once between December 2023 and December 2024 to pay for their energy bills.²
- Between December 2023 and December 2024, 23.4% have been unable to pay part or all of their energy bill.²
- Households with children who reported cutting back on or skipping necessary expenses increased from 38.7% to 41.5% during the same reporting period.²
- According to the Bipartisan Policy Center and Consumer Price Index data, electricity prices rose 5.1% between September 2024 and September 2025, which was higher proportionately compared to the overall 3% inflation rate for goods and services.³

Energy access is crucial for household safety

- Between 2022 and 2024, 22% of households reported having kept their homes at unsafe temperatures as a way to save money. In that same time period, 43% of households reported experiencing at least one form of energy insecurity.⁴
- The average limited-income household's energy burden is three times that of other households.⁵
- Nearly 27% of Americans report they reduced or forwent basic expenses such as food and medicine so they could pay their energy bill.⁶
- One in six people report an inability to pay the full amount of their energy bill at least once in the preceding 12 months.⁶
- LIHEAP restored power or prevented disconnection 3,652,672 times in FY 2024.⁷

LIHEAP plays a vital role in protecting families

- 57,000 children were lifted out of poverty because of energy assistance in 2024.⁸
- 78,000 people age 65 or older were lifted out of poverty because of energy assistance in 2024.⁸
- In FY 2024, 49,793 homes were weatherized with LIHEAP funds, improving the health, safety, and affordability for those households.⁹
- Three out of 10 households receiving LIHEAP reported using their kitchen stove to heat their home at least once in the year preceding assistance.¹⁰ LIHEAP helps families avoid dangerous heating practices in winter.
- One in four households receiving LIHEAP reported that they could not afford to address the non-functioning furnace or cooling system in their homes.¹⁰ LIHEAP helps repair and replace broken systems, keeping homes safe and energy efficient.
- The need for year-round LIHEAP offerings is growing, especially the need for cooling assistance. Extreme heat caused more deaths in 2024 than any other weather event, including floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes.¹¹ LIHEAP protects people from extreme heat in their homes. LIHEAP saves lives.

Overcoming energy insecurity requires consistent efforts

- The rising costs of energy, fuel, and other resources have contributed to an affordability crisis in America. Ongoing support is necessary to continue to address the consequences 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 families maintain a safe home environment year-round.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

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 2026 (FY26) in order to protect access to energy and fuel for families struggling with kitchen table budgets that are increasingly difficult to balance.

LIHEAP addresses the affordability crisis

Affordability is fundamental to keeping utilities connected and homes stable for families. When essential services like heat and electricity are affordable, families remain safe, healthy, and focused on work, school, and caregiving rather than impossible tradeoffs between utilities and other basic needs. Ensuring affordability strengthens communities, supports economic stability, and allows utilities to fulfill their core mission of providing reliable, essential service to every household.

Current events support the need for LIHEAP

LIHEAP provides access to utility assistance during both deadly heat domes and winter freezes. In FY 2024, winter crisis assistance served nearly 700,000 households, while summer crisis assistance served nearly 100,000 households. LIHEAP needs more funds to address life-critical cooling assistance. Unusually hot summer temperatures have become more common across the contiguous 48 states in recent decades. As a result, the risk of heat-related deaths and illness is expected to increase.

Our request to you...

Please protect seniors, children, those with disabilities and other vulnerable persons by maximizing FY 2027 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.

Sources

1. <https://www.aceee.org/topic-brief/2024/05/combined-energy-burdens-estimating-total-home-and-transportation-energy-burdens>
2. <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2024/demo/hhp/cycle09.html>
3. <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/explainer/why-is-my-electric-bill-going-up-understanding-changes-in-electricity-bill-prices-over-time/#~:text=According%20to%20Consumer%20Price%20Index,rate%20for%20goods%20and%20services.>
4. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2840540>
5. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/slc/low-income-community-energy-solutions>
6. <https://www.helpadvisor.com/housing/americans-struggling-to-pay-energy-bills-study>
7. <https://liheappm.acf.gov/datawarehouse>
8. <https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/2025/demo/p60-287.pdf>
9. https://liheappm.acf.gov/sites/default/files/private/congress/profiles/2024/FY2024_AllStates%28National%29_Profile.pdf
10. <https://neuac.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/liheapsurvey2018.pdf>
11. <https://www.weather.gov/media/hazstat/sum24.pdf>

All Parties Letter vs. Dear Colleague Letter

| All Parties Letter (aka Open Letter to Congress in Support of LIHEAP) | Dear Colleague Letters |
|--|---|
| Initiated by NEUAC | Initiated by members of Congress |
| Audience for letter is Appropriations Leaders | Audience for letter is Appropriations Leaders |
| Signers are organizations that support LIHEAP or LIHEAP households | Signers are legislators, House and Senate separately |
| Letter is posted publicly while in-progress and signatures are gathered publicly | Letters are not posted publicly while in-progress and signatures are gathered privately |

Dear Colleague Letter

House Letter is OPEN

[Sign using Quill to support LIHEAP FFY 2027](#)

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We are writing to request that you prioritize the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in your Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 appropriations bill by including the highest level of funding possible for this program that provides critical support to our most vulnerable constituents.

For more than 40 years, LIHEAP has helped seniors, families with young children, and individuals with disabilities maintain safe and reliable access to essential energy services. This program helps some of the most vulnerable families in the country with their energy bills by providing them with vital assistance during both the cold winter and hot summer months. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, more than 70 percent of LIHEAP households report at least one household member who is age five or younger, 60 or older, or has a disability. For these households, LIHEAP funding has provided a lifeline during challenging economic times. Access to home energy is not a luxury – it is essential for the health and safety of families.

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 and help provide assistance to heating and cooling costs. Living at the lowest levels of poverty, recipients of these funds are forced to make choices every day between food, medicine, or utilities. Continued bipartisan support for LIHEAP in FY 2027 will ensure these income-constrained households receive the critical assistance they need and are not left behind.

We understand the discretionary budget challenges the Committee will be facing in FY 2027. However, LIHEAP is chronically underfunded. In recent years, the program has only had funds to serve one out of six eligible households. As household budgets are strained by inflation and other economic pressures, many income-constrained families and seniors will have fewer resources available to meet their basic needs.

As you finalize your FY 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we ask that you take into account the tremendous and growing need for LIHEAP. We urge you to prioritize this program and maximize funding. Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this important affordability request.

Sincerely,

[[SIGNATURES]]

NEUAC's All Parties Letter for LIHEAP

Letter is OPEN

<https://neuac.org/all-parties-letter/>

Open Letter to Senate and House Committees on Appropriations

IN SUPPORT OF THE LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

Dear Appropriators:

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a critical, life-saving resource that supports eligible households in all 50 states, U.S. territories, and tribal communities—including those most vulnerable to illness or death from unsafe indoor temperatures. The National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC), together with the undersigned partners, urges Congress to provide robust funding for LIHEAP in Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 to help ensure families can maintain access to the energy and fuel they need as they struggle to balance increasingly strained household budgets.

Energy is essential for meeting basic needs. For more than 40 years, LIHEAP has played a vital role in stabilizing households and reducing the energy burden for those most vulnerable. The program keeps electricity flowing to life-saving medical equipment, prevents utility disconnections, and helps preserve housing stability. Many grantees also invest a portion of their LIHEAP funds in home weatherization and energy efficiency measures, helping families lower their utility bills and make critical repairs to heating and cooling systems.

In FY 2024, LIHEAP served nearly 6 million households in states, tribes, and U.S. territories. LIHEAP protected [2.4 million adults age 60 or older](#) with those funds, many relying on Social Security or other fixed incomes that struggle to keep pace with rising energy costs. Additionally, more than [2.1 million households included at least one member with a disability, and nearly one million had a child age five or younger](#). These are the individuals most vulnerable to dangerous indoor temperatures. LIHEAP serves as a vital first line of protection for older adults, young children, and people with serious health conditions, helping them remain safe in their homes.

As commodity prices increase disproportionate to wages and weather-related disasters become more frequent, funding for LIHEAP has become increasingly strained. [LIHEAP is able to serve only 1 in 5 eligible households](#) with regular appropriations each year. We ask that Congress consider the need for increased funding to ensure adequate year-round resources for the program, including funds for both heating and cooling homes, weatherization, and crisis response.

NEUAC, together with the stakeholder organizations signing this letter, urges Congress to maximize LIHEAP funding in FY 2027 and ensure adequate federal staffing levels to deliver these vital services to eligible households.

Thank you for your consideration.

Has the reduction in federal staff at the US Department of HHS had an effect on LIHEAP operations?

Your response?



Who is in charge of..

#TYforLIHEAP

@theNEUAC

#LIHEAPAction

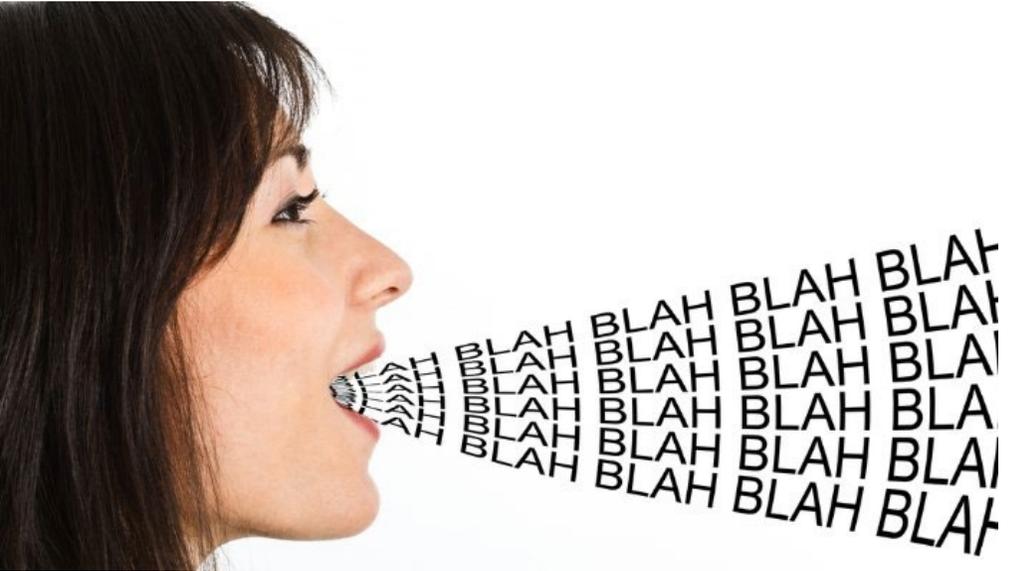


#FundLIHEAP



#LIHEAP

What shouldn't we say or do?



off topic

Get the logistics right

- Know your state team members – share contact info, cell #s
- Show up prepared
 - **Bring business cards**
 - **Bring state sheets (NEUAC will provide)**
 - **Bring thank you cards (NEUAC will provide)**
- Be flexible – it's going to be busy
- Be aware of your surroundings – in an emergency, follow directions of Capitol Police and staff
- Be mindful of weather and walking time, especially with large groups
- If new attendees show up for the meetings, they should defer to State Team Leader for participation



What if I don't know the answer?

Do:

- Say “I don't know the answer to that, but I will follow up with you.”
- Then follow through.
- All contact is an opportunity.

Don't:

- Make up something.
- Go off-topic.



Social Media

- [LinkedIn](#)

#LIHEAP #LIHEAPAction #KeepTheHeatOn #FuelFunds #ProtectLIHEAP

- Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/neuaccoalition>

- [LIHEAP Social Media Graphics](#)



Protect LIHEAP

African American householders report energy insecurity at nearly twice the rate of all U.S. households.

Tell Congress to #ProtectLIHEAP to help end energy poverty.

AUGUST IS LIHEAP ACTION MONTH.
Spread the word. Share this post.

SOURCE: US EIA | Residential Energy Consumption Survey (2020)



Protect LIHEAP

In 2024, there have been 11 confirmed weather disaster events in the US with losses exceeding \$1 billion.

LIHEAP saves lives.
Tell Congress to #ProtectLIHEAP to provide heating and cooling assistance during weather disasters.

AUGUST IS LIHEAP ACTION MONTH.
Spread the word. Share this post.

SOURCE: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters (2024)

Many thanks to each and every one of you for your dedication to your customers, clients, and neighbors in need.



**This
work
matters.**



BECOME A

neuac

MEMBER

Connect with our network to address
energy and water affordability





neuac

MOVING THE NEEDLE

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MAY 18 - 21 • HYATT REGENCY SEATTLE

Meet your teams!

- Alabama + Missouri
- Alaska + Oregon
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado + Minnesota + New Mexico + South Dakota
- Connecticut + Maine + Rhode Island
- Delaware + District of Columbia + Maryland
- Florida
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Kansas + New Hampshire
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Mississippi
- Nebraska
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Texas
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin



neuac

NATIONAL ENERGY & UTILITY AFFORDABILITY COALITION

Questions?

Katrina Metzler

Executive Director

National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition

Email: info@neuac.org

Website: <http://neuac.org>

