



National Fuel Funds Network

1010 Vermont Ave., NW, #718

Washington, DC 20005

202 824-0638 (fax), 202 824-0660 (phone)

info@nationalfuelfunds.org www.nationalfuelfunds.org

March 2011

LIHEAP Advocacy Resources

In February, President Obama released his FY 2012 federal budget request. The President seeks to reduce FY 2012 funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program from \$5.1 billion to \$2.57 billion, the FY 2008 level. On March 1, the House passed a stop-gap bill that would run the government for two weeks after March 5 but would not cut LIHEAP. However, February House legislation that the Senate did not consider would have cut LIHEAP the remaining \$400 million in FY 2011 LIHEAP emergency contingency funds. The \$400 million remains a target as Congress now prepares legislation to fund the government from March 18 to September 30.

As a supporter of LIHEAP, the National Fuel Funds Network designed an advocacy and media strategy to help with lobbying efforts to retain the \$5.1 billion funding level. The NFFN's **LIHEAP Action Tool Kit** contains information to help plan and execute grassroots advocacy campaigns. The tool kit has tips on planning local media events, visiting editorial boards and involving state and local elected officials.

The **LIHEAP Action Tool Kit** can be found on the NFFN's website, <http://www.nationalfuelfunds.org/AdvocacyPublicPolicy/NFFN%20LIHEAP%20ActionToolkit%202014%2011.pdf>

The NFFN has also assembled the following list of resources that can provide statistics and talking points to help our members and other supporters better make our case for maintaining the current funding for LIHEAP.

Resources

- The **National Energy Assistance Directors Association** has data on the number of households receiving LIHEAP aid and a state by state breakdown of LIHEAP funding. Visit the NEADA website at <http://www.neada.org>.

Chart: [2008 vs. 2011 Comparison Households Served by State](#)

Chart: [LIHEAP FY 2010 and FY 2011 Allocations Status](#)

Chart: [LIHEAP Winter Heating Households Served FY 10 & FY 11](#)

- The **Campaign for Home Energy Assistance** has produced "2011 State LIHEAP Fact Sheets" to support communications with Senators and Representatives. The state fact sheets include the funding levels (FY2008-2011), number of households served, and demographics of each state.

<http://www.liheap.org/factsheet.html>

- The **American Gas Association** website contains an easy to use feature through which you can send a letter supporting \$5.1 billion in funding for LIHEAP to your Congressional delegation. The site also has data on LIHEAP and updates on the legislative process.

The AGA issues page is located at

<http://www.aga.org/OUR-ISSUES/LIHEAP/Pages/default.aspx>

To write a letter to your Senators and Representative, visit

<http://capwiz.com/aga/home/>

- The **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities** has issued a white paper entitled "Administration's Rationale for Severe Cuts in Low-Income Home Energy Assistance is Weak" which rebukes the White House's assertion that energy costs have dropped enough to return LIHEAP funding to the 2008 levels.

<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3406>

- **Children's HealthWatch** has released *LIHEAP Stabilizes Family Housing and Protects Children's Health*, an energy policy brief that deal with the effects of energy insecurity on the health of young children. The brief demonstrates that young children in low income households receiving LIHEAP grants are healthier than children in similar households that receive no aid.

http://www.childrenshealthwatch.org/upload/resource/energy_brief_feb11.pdf

- The **Coalition on Human Needs** has issued a report on the effects of the budget cuts proposed by House Republicans for the current fiscal year and the Obama administration for FY 2012. The report concludes that with energy prices still rising and more people than ever seeking assistance this is not the time to reduce funding for LIHEAP.

The complete report can be found on the Coalition's website and the section dealing with LIHEAP is on pages 10-12.

<http://www.chn.org/pdf/2011/BetterBudget4AllReport.pdf>

- On February 21, **C-SPAN's Washington Journal** interviewed NFFN's executive director George Coling about the impact of the proposed cuts in funding for LIHEAP. Mr. Coling defended the program and rebutted President Obama's rationale for reducing funding for federal energy assistance.

The link contains both President Obama's statement about LIHEAP and Mr. Coling's rebuttal.

<http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/Cutsto>

For more information on LIHEAP advocacy activities and updates on the legislative process, visit the NFFN website – www.nationalfuelfunds.org – and follow us on Facebook.