

NFFN's LIHEAP Action Day

*February 15, 2012
and July 31, 2012 (tentative date)*

A program of the National Fuel Funds Network

www.nationalfuel funds.org

202-824-0660





NFFN's LIHEAP Action Day

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The National Fuel Funds Network:

- 300 member organizations and programs joined to increase energy assistance resources. NFFN members raise and distribute about \$150 million charitably-donated funds annually for home energy assistance.

Members include:

- fuel funds or charitable energy assistance programs
- multi-service organizations, especially community action agencies, and faith-based organizations (e.g., The Salvation Army)
- utilities, fuel oil companies and trade associations
- state, local and Tribal government programs
- individuals

NFFN strategies

- Build capacity of the charitable energy assistance sector
- Advocate for funding of the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

NFFN's LIHEAP Action Day is one of several NFFN program components that advocate for LIHEAP. It's a year-around activity.

NFFN coordinates LIHEAP Action Day and all other advocacy work with utilities, other nonprofits and the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association.

NFFN's LIHEAP Action Day

February 15, 2012

What does Action Day do?

- Kicks off national lobbying for restoring LIHEAP appropriations for FY 2013 to at least \$5.1 billion
- Convenes some 200 diverse LIHEAP advocates in Washington, DC
- Delivers a common message for LIHEAP funding from diverse voices at 250 Congressional offices
- Generates media coverage of the need for LIHEAP funding
- Draws local supportive activities across the nation
- Connects with other advocacy activities of NFFN and its allies
- Emphasizes need for LIHEAP, in cold weather and warm weather states

In 2012, NFFN's LIHEAP Action Day delegates will ask Congress to restore at least \$5.1 billion for FY 2013 LIHEAP appropriations. The goal is to maintain year-around LIHEAP programs in all states and territories that serve an increasing demand for energy assistance.

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Has grown from about 20 in January 2003 to an expected 200 in February 2012

Features a diverse delegation from utilities, the fuel oil industry, nonprofits, consumer groups, and state, local and Tribal agencies

Will be held Wednesday, February 15, 2012 on Capitol Hill in Washington. Summer LIHEAP Action Day will tentatively be held on July 31, 2012. NFFN will confirm the date as Congressional schedules firm up.

Is supported by:

- NFFN's Toolkit for NFFN's LIHEAP Action Day for those who cannot travel to Washington on February 15. Visit the *Toolkit* for ideas and assistance on how to organize a local press conference (with a sample video), call-into Congress and other activities to amplify the voices on Capitol Hill.
<http://www.nationalfuelfunds.org/NFFN/LIHEAP%20Action%20Day%20Tool%20Kit%20Jan%20%202012.pdf>
- Complimentary consultation how to make supportive grassroots activities successful
- Bi-weekly national conference calls on the status of LIHEAP funding and grassroots advocacy. Contact George Coling, coling@nationalfuelfunds.org, to receive notices.
- LIHEAP Action Center at National Energy and Utility Affordability Conference in June – will generate hundreds of letters to Congress on LIHEAP funding
- Summer LIHEAP Action Day, July 31, 2012 (tentative date)
- Action Alerts and LIHEAP Updates. Facebook postings of breaking news.
- Representation of members on Capitol Hill and Executive Branch advocacy
- Planning and recruiting for NFFN's LIHEAP Action Day, February 13, 2013



NFFN's LIHEAP Action Day

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NFFN provides:

- Arrangements for discounted hotel rooms
- Detailed briefings before, during and after the event
- Materials to hand out and for background
- Coordination of appointments
- Assistance and support to delegates as they prepare for the day

American Gas Association provides:

- Capitol Hill facility for briefing and work and rest during the day

Delegates provide:

- Knowledge of and enthusiasm for the issue
- Shoe leather work - several appointments in one day
- Information to handout that illustrates the importance of LIHEAP to their community

Utilities can support by:

- Spreading the word about LIHEAP Action Day between now and February
- Participating in the lobbying on February 15
- Assisting with travel expenses of nonprofit partners so they can participate
- Working with partners to organize local supporting activities on or about February 15
- Sponsoring NFFN's LIHEAP Action Day. Levels range from \$500 - \$5,000.
- Becoming an NFFN member, if your company is not one already.



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The schedule: Washington, DC

Tuesday evening, February 14 - Reception 5: 30-7pm, Edison Electric Institute, 701 Pennsylvania Ave., NW

Wednesday, February 15

- Early morning: Breakfast and Briefing, American Gas Association on Capitol Hill
- Morning - Afternoon: Delegates fan out over Capitol Hill with identical message
- Mid-morning: Capitol Hill press conference
- Lunch on one's own
- Late Afternoon: Debriefing and Reception

The schedule: Other locales

- LIHEAP advocates organize press conferences, petition drives, and other supporting activities.
- NFFN *Toolkit for NFFN's LIHEAP Action Day* with suggestions and resources.

Delegates' follow-up activities

- Submit legislative report forms
- Supply Capitol Hill contacts with requested information
- Respond to Action Alerts and participate in other lobbying activities throughout the year

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To register for
NFFN's LIHEAP Action Day, February 15, 2012
visit www.nationalfuelfunds.org.

The block of discounted hotel rooms expires January 20, 2012. Reserve your room at the Washington Plaza Hotel, 1-800-424-1140, National Fuel Funds Network room block.

For more information, contact:

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