



National Fuel Funds Network

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Dear Member: Time is winding down on your opportunity to participate in the Victorine Q. Adams Institute, the first ever national forum on fundraising for charitable energy assistance.

The Victorine Q. Adams Institute will convene on September 16 at the Tremont Plaza Hotel in Baltimore, MD. and the two day event will offer a series of workshops and speakers designed to help you increase your fundraising opportunities.

More details about the Adams Institute as well as on-line registration for the event and hotel rooms are available through the NFFN website at www.nationalfuelfunds.org. Don't delay; the hotel has set Friday, August 22 as the deadline for reduced rate rooms.

Fuel Fund Actions

- The Dollar Energy Fund in partnership with West Virginia's major utilities and the state's business and community leaders recently unveiled a new charitably supported energy assistance program designed to aid the state's low income residents.

The West Virginia Utility Assistance Program will assist 1,500 families this year according to Danielle Snidow, the program's director. The program will provide grants ranging from \$100 to \$500 to help pay for owed utility payments. The Salvation Army will process the applications for the program which will begin October 1.

Cindy Datig, executive director of the Dollar Energy Fund, said "we need to do something to low income people who are facing a cold winter without heat, water, or electric."

The program is funded through a \$343,000 start-up grant from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, said Chad Quinn, director of business development for the Dollar Energy Fund. The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation donated \$10,000.

Additional funds come from West Virginia's six major utilities, including Allegheny Energy Inc., Appalachian Power Co., Dominion Resources Inc., Equitable Resources Inc., Mountaineer Gas Co. and West Virginia-American Water Co.

Utility customers can contribute to the program through their utility bills.

- Operation: New View Community Action Agency in conjunction with several local partners has announced plans to weatherize 100 homes in the Dubuque, IA area in October as part of "The Dubuque Weatherization Challenge 2008." On October 25, teams of volunteers will provide simple weatherization measures such as caulking, weather-stripping, window plastic, and door sweeps to pre-selected homes in the area.

For the second year in a row, the agency will partner with Alliant Energy, Black Hills Energy, Theisen's Home Farm Auto, Dubuque Area Congregations United, the Diamond Jo Casino and Dubuque 365 to help homeowners reduce their home energy costs.

Utility Actions

- Nevada Power Company has increased its funding for Project REACH by \$100,000 in part because of a \$50,000 donation from the Harrah's Foundation. The bill assistance program, which is administered by the United Way of Southern Nevada, will have \$500,000 to help pay the electric bills of senior citizens, the medically fragile, military reservists and National Guard members who meet eligibility standards.

State Government Actions

- Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell has proposed using the state's expected \$80 million budget surplus to provide energy assistance to the state's residents. State lawmakers are expected to take up the governor's proposal later this week.

Rell's proposal would send \$16 million to Operation Fuel, the statewide fuel fund, with \$10 million to be used for low-income households and \$6 million for middle-income families earning up to \$93,821, who would not typically qualify for aid. Another \$6 million would be used for energy assistance for senior citizens.

The governor also proposed using \$7.5 million for municipalities to help heat schools, \$4 million to provide heating assistance to nonprofit agencies, \$3 million for a furnace and boiler replacement program and \$2 million to provide loans for energy conservation projects.

The remaining funds would be placed in an energy contingency fund to be used during the colder months, the governor said.

Reports and Studies

- Home heating oil prices are projected to increase by 31 percent this heating season, according to the latest Short Term Energy Outlook released by the Energy Information Administration. The EIA reported that heating oil prices are expected to reach \$4.34 per gallon compared to \$3.31 per gallon last winter.

Natural gas prices are expected to increase by 22 percent over last winter, the EIA reported.

Resources

- The Coalition on Human Needs has put together a document to support their effort to have Congress enact an economic recovery package before they adjourn at the end of September. The document titled "*Toward Shared Recovery: Congress Must Do More to Reverse the Recession*" urges increased funding for LIHEAP. The document is available at <http://www.chn.org/pdf/2008/stimulus8108.pdf>.
- The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities has released a brief report that refutes the Bush Administration claim that the current funding level for LIHEAP is adequate. The paper is available through the Center's website at <http://www.cbpp.org/8-11-08bud.pdf>.