



## *National Fuel Funds Network*

1010 Vermont Ave., NW, #718

Washington, DC 20005

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

[info@nationalfuelfunds.org](mailto:info@nationalfuelfunds.org) [www.nationalfuelfunds.org](http://www.nationalfuelfunds.org)

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### **Energy Safety Net Bulletin #131**

Dear Member: As we move deeper into the heating season, the NFFN has begun to focus on the message that we will convey to the members of Congress on Washington Action Day for LIHEAP in February.

When we go to Capitol Hill, on February 11, we will be fighting to keep LIHEAP funded at its fully authorized level. We must demonstrate to the legislators how important full funding for LIHEAP was during this heating season and how imperative it is to maintain this level of funding into the future.

We need your help to craft this message. Please let us know the situation in your communities and among your clients. We need information on the numbers of households you serve this winter and how many people are applying for assistance for the first time. We need true life human stories that show the importance of LIHEAP on a personal basis.

Please call, email, fax or write us with any information you think may be helpful.

#### **Fuel Fund Actions**

- Volunteers in the Dubuque, Iowa area weatherized 106 homes of in one day as part of Operation: New View Community Action Agency's second annual Dubuque Weatherization Challenge.

Divided into 55 teams of six volunteers each, the workers caulked holes, applied weather stripping, installed insulation and covered windows of the homes of preselected elderly or low income families. Tom Stovall, executive director of

Operation: New View Community Action Agency said “this is the largest weatherization project in the state.”

- Operation Fuel in Connecticut has received a \$30,000 grant from the Fairfield County Community Foundation to help support its emergency energy assistance program. The Fairfield County Community Foundation has awarded more than \$62 million in grants since it was established 15 years ago.
- The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region has awarded \$85,000 in grants to six nonprofit organizations in the Washington metropolitan area to provide emergency energy assistance to those in need.

Receiving grants were Alive Inc. of Alexandria, VA, \$10,000; Wumco Help of Poolesville, MD, \$5,000; United Community Ministries of Alexandria, VA, \$15,000; Loudoun Cares of Leesburg, VA, \$15,000; Interfaith Works of Rockville, MD, \$20,000; and Community Ministries of Rockville, MD, \$10,000.

### **Utility Actions**

- The Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. presented its annual Humanitarian Award to Allen C. Jackson, a local resident who played a major role in establishing the Anne Arundel County Fuel Fund in November 1979. Mr. Jackson also was acknowledged for creating the Fuel Fund Envelope Campaign in February 1980.

As chairman of the Anne Arundel County Economic Committee, Mr. Jackson penned a letter asking for BG & E customers to contribute one dollar to help families with their energy bills. His appeal was included with BG&E’s utility bills and raised \$13,000. BG&E matched the contributions dollar for dollar.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Jackson said "I think we've saved a number of lives. I have children and grandchildren, and that's my legacy, but for the people who worked on (utility assistance), all of them have a legacy for all the people they've helped."

- The Southern Tier Chapter of the American Red Cross and NYSEG have announced a new energy assistance program designed to aid NYSEG residential customers with energy emergencies. The program will be funded with a \$500,000 contribution from NYSEG.

The Matching incentive Payment Program will provide grants of up to \$600 to eligible customers, who are facing service disconnection due to nonpayment and will match any additional payments customers make toward past-due amounts, up to \$400.

## **State Government Actions**

- Representatives from the Maryland Office of Home Energy Programs, Delmarva Power, Choptank Electric Cooperative, Chesapeake Utilities, Delmarva Community Services, and Shore Up! took part in a one day Energy Assistance and Community Awareness Fair at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center.

The utilities and government organizations provided information on utility bill payment assistance programs, fuel and weatherization assistance, and sources of help with housing and supportive family services.

“We provided educational workshops on various topics such as how to save energy and weatherize your home as well as offer tips on electrical and gas safety,” said Michael Hoy, customer and community relations manager at Delmarva Power.

- The Missouri Public Service Commission and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources have launched a new website designed to help Missouri residents control their energy bills. The new site is [www.beenergyefficient.org](http://www.beenergyefficient.org).

The site contains a series of no cost, low cost and long range actions that consumers can take to help with winter and summer energy costs. In addition, there are links to other energy efficiency tips, state and local assistance programs, utilities, and kids' activities.

## **Federal Government Actions**

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Services, Division of Energy Assistance, has awarded the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) a three-year training and technical assistance contract to continue operating the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Clearinghouse. NCAT has operated the Clearinghouse for HHS since 1988.

The Clearinghouse provides information and technical assistance through a dedicated telephone number, Internet website, email address, newsletter and other written correspondence as needed on the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and other low-income energy programs to LIHEAP grantees, their subcontractors and subgrantees, including OCS grantees, such as Community Actions Agencies, and other interested parties.

The Clearinghouse will also provide a National Energy Assistance Referral (NEAR) project, an energy assistance referral service for members of the general public who are interested in applying for LIHEAP assistance.

The Clearinghouse is available at [www.liheap.ncat.org](http://www.liheap.ncat.org).

### **Project Energy Savers Calendars**

- The deadline for ordering customized versions of the Project Energy Savers 2009 calendar is Wednesday, Nov. 5th! The 2009 calendar provides energy saving tips that are relevant to all families and can be an ideal vehicle for providing customized information about your agency's energy assistance, efficiency and weatherization programs.

Orders of more than 1,500 can be customized to include the name of your organization on the front cover and information about your program on the first two pages on the inside of the calendar. Note: in most cases, there is no additional charge for this service. Customization options for smaller orders are available for an additional charge.

For more information on orders or to request a free sample of the calendar, please call Rebecca at 202-223-8274, email [rstewart@projectenergysavers.com](mailto:rstewart@projectenergysavers.com) or check out the website [www.projectenergysavers.com](http://www.projectenergysavers.com).

### **Resources**

- The American Public Power Association has launched a website containing tools that utilities can use to help their customers save money and energy. The site also has information on energy saving measures for small businesses. The site is [www.appanet.org/utility/index.cfm?ItemNumber=12062&navItemNumber=21024](http://www.appanet.org/utility/index.cfm?ItemNumber=12062&navItemNumber=21024).
- A new study of California's energy efficiency policies claims that the state has saved consumers about \$56 billion in power costs over the last 30 years. The report, written by David Roland-Holst, an economics professor at the University of California Berkeley, also claims that the policies have created 1.5 million jobs.

The complete report, entitled *Energy Efficiency, Innovation and Job Creation in California*, is available at [http://are.berkeley.edu/dwrh/CERES\\_Web/index.html](http://are.berkeley.edu/dwrh/CERES_Web/index.html).