

Press Release

**Record Number of Households Receive Energy Assistance
Shut-Offs Exceed 4.3 Million Households in 2009**

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RECORD NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVE ENERGY ASSISTANCE

State directors of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) today released the results of their FY 2009 state recipient survey. The number of households receiving heating assistance reached record levels for the second year in a row, increasing from 6.1 million (5.8 million heating and 0.3 million cooling) to 8.3 million (7.7 million heating and 0.6 million cooling). Eleven states reported increases of more than 50%: California 162%, Texas 122%, Florida 104%, Nevada 80%, Arizona 80%, Oklahoma 76.3%, Kentucky 72.1%, Delaware 71%, Tennessee 62%, Oregon 55%, and Washington 54%. (Table 1)

For FY 2010, the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association (NEADA), representing the state LIHEAP directors, is projecting an increase of 20% in the number of families applying for assistance based on initial application rates. The current funding level will not be sufficient to meet the need if current trends continue. In the absence of supplemental funding, states will have few choices other than to reduce benefits, tighten eligibility requirements or close programs early.

UTILITY SHUT-OFFS REMAIN AT HIGH LEVELS

Utility shut-offs and arrearages remained at high levels with approximately 4.3 million households shut off from power in FY 2009 up from 4.1 million in 2008. These families owed a total of \$1.2 billion up from \$1.0 billion in FY 2008 (Table 2). The average amount owed increased from \$253 to \$279. Approximately 12.5 million households were at least 30 days behind in their utility bills in FY 2009 as compared to 13.1 million in FY 2008. These families owed about \$3.4 billion as compared to \$3.6 billion in FY 2008. The average amount owed increased from \$272 to \$276.

While arrearage and shut-off rates remain high, the situation could have been significantly worse if Congress had not increased LIHEAP funding from \$2.57 billion in FY 2008 to \$5.1 billion in FY 2009. Nevertheless, only 18% of the eligible households received assistance. (Table 3)

HOME HEATING COSTS REMAIN HIGH SHOW MODEST DECLINE

Average energy prices are projected by the Energy Information Administration to decline modestly by \$76 from \$1,038 to \$962. Prices in the cold weather states are expected to be significantly higher, for example those using heating oil in the Northeast are expected to pay close to \$2,000 this winter, almost double the national average. The average share of home heating costs covered by LIHEAP increased from 33.3% to 47.7%. The average grant increased from \$330 to \$495 largely because of the increase in the appropriation level. (Table 4)

End

TABLE 1: LIHEAP Households Served FY 2009 & FY 2008 (Revised 12/17/09)

State	Winter Heating		Summer Cooling		Total		FY 08 to FY 09	
	FY 08	FY 09	FY 08	FY 09	FY 08	FY 09	% Change	# Change
Alabama	64,792	98,714	58,601	68,761	123,393	167,475	35.7%	44,082
Alaska	13,621	17,807			13,621	17,807	30.7%	4,186
Arizona	25,730	46,483	*	*	25,730	46,383	80.3%	20,653
Arkansas	60,000	75,000			60,000	75,000	25.0%	15,000
California	165,678	434,141			165,678	434,141	162.0%	268,463
Colorado	92,369	105,736			92,369	105,736	14.5%	13,367
Connecticut	86,000	107,336			86,000	107,336	24.8%	21,336
Delaware	14,424	17,654	252	7,387	14,676	25,041	70.6%	10,365
District of Columbia	30,506	36,607			30,506	36,607	20.0%	6,101
Florida	30,135	57,416	43,214	92,000	73,349	149,416	103.7%	76,067
Georgia	81,735	98,082			81,735	98,082	20.0%	16,347
Hawaii	5,665	6,934			5,665	6,934	22.4%	1,269
Idaho	32,847	39,416			32,847	39,416	20.0%	6,569
Illinois	319,828	415,669	56,080	63,746	375,908	479,415	27.5%	103,507
Indiana	160,000	197,809			160,000	197,809	23.6%	37,809
Iowa	85,342	95,234			85,342	95,234	11.6%	9,892
Kansas	41,846	46,959			41,846	46,959	12.2%	5,113
Kentucky	173,840	299,183			173,840	299,183	72.1%	125,343
Louisiana	17,653	20,831			17,653	20,831	18.0%	3,178
Maine	47,000	63,000			47,000	63,000	34.0%	16,000
Maryland	93,198	122,250			93,198	122,250	31.2%	29,052
Massachusetts	144,846	186,160			144,846	186,160	28.5%	41,314
Michigan	526,307	633,682			526,307	633,682	20.4%	107,375
Minnesota	126,229	153,721			126,229	153,721	21.8%	27,492
Mississippi	61,675	74,010			61,675	74,010	20.0%	12,335
Missouri	127,000	147,000			127,000	147,000	15.7%	20,000
Montana	18,921	22,048			18,921	22,048	16.5%	3,127
Nebraska	33,534	39,281			33,534	39,281	17.1%	5,747
Nevada	13,389	24,151	*	*	13,389	24,151	80.4%	10,762
New Hampshire	35,351	44,425			35,351	44,425	25.7%	9,074
New Jersey	196,062	295,046	40,447	44,490	236,509	339,536	43.6%	103,027
New Mexico	65,690	69,477			65,690	69,477	5.8%	3,787
New York	895,000	1,237,610			895,000	1,237,610	38.3%	342,610
North Carolina	319,980	383,755			319,980	383,755	19.9%	63,775
North Dakota	15,315	16,158			15,315	16,158	5.5%	843
Ohio	387,332	393,681	27,001	29,764	414,333	423,445	2.2%	9,112
Oklahoma	83,503	117,780	30,566	83,332	114,069	201,112	76.3%	87,043
Oregon	63,542	98,571			63,542	98,571	55.1%	35,029
Pennsylvania	370,873	547,302			370,873	547,302	47.6%	176,429
Rhode Island	30,038	33,932			30,038	33,932	13.0%	3,894
South Carolina 1/	18,218	18,218			18,218	18,218	0.0%	0
South Dakota	17,760	19,536			17,760	19,536	10.0%	1,776
Tennessee	68,250	112,368	2,811	2,677	71,061	115,045	61.9%	43,984
Texas	10,182	23,863	57,293	125,846	67,475	149,709	121.9%	82,234
Utah	32,000	42,453			32,000	42,453	32.7%	10,453
Vermont	21,680	26,313			21,680	26,313	21.4%	4,633
Virginia	108,040	122,625	48,361	68,853	156,401	191,478	22.4%	35,077
Washington 1/	68,023	104,374			68,023	104,374	53.4%	36,351
West Virginia	78,122	87,166			78,122	87,166	11.6%	9,044
Wisconsin	155,000	173,000			155,000	173,000	11.6%	18,000
Wyoming 1/	12,031	12,031			12,031	12,031	0.0%	0
Total	5,746,102	7,661,998	364,626	586,856	6,110,728	8,248,854	35.0%	2,138,126

Survey data reflects state estimates of households served as of 12/16/09

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1/ Waiting on data

* Both heating and cooling assistance are provided through year-round programs. All households served are reported under the heating assistance column.

TABLE 2: EST. ARREARAGES/SHUT OFFS (2008-09)						
Date	Arrears (# in millions, except for average)			Shut-Offs (# in millions, except for average)		
	# of Households	\$ Amount	Average	# of Households	\$ Amount	Average
9/30/2009	12.5	\$3,437.9	\$276	4.3	\$1,209.64	\$279
9/30/2008	13.1	\$3,565.2	\$272	4.1	\$1,031.37	\$253

Shutoffs refer to households shut-off during the course of the year

Source: state reports, American Gas Association

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Table 3: LIHEAP Eligible Households Served: Federal Maximum Income Standard

State	Total number of LIHEAP eligible households	Households served (2009)	Eligible households served
Alabama	760,409	167,475	22.0%
Alaska	91,977	17,807	19.4%
Arizona	814,174	46,483	5.7%
Arkansas	411,257	75,000	18.2%
California	5,022,370	434,141	8.6%
Colorado	681,797	105,736	15.5%
Connecticut	591,119	107,336	18.2%
Delaware	125,674	25,041	19.9%
District of Columbia	87,270	36,607	41.9%
Florida	2,654,800	149,416	5.6%
Georgia	1,282,667	98,082	7.6%
Hawaii	147,748	6,934	4.7%
Idaho	183,394	39,416	21.5%
Illinois	1,985,838	479,415	24.1%
Indiana	993,135	197,809	19.9%
Iowa	441,171	95,234	21.6%
Kansas	428,586	46,959	11.0%
Kentucky	672,383	299,183	44.5%
Louisiana	635,874	20,831	3.3%
Maine	206,078	63,000	30.6%
Maryland	804,264	122,250	15.2%
Massachusetts	1,092,350	186,160	17.0%
Michigan	1,666,701	633,682	38.0%
Minnesota	745,951	153,721	20.6%
Mississippi	428,968	74,010	17.3%
Missouri	912,431	147,000	16.1%
Montana	141,282	22,048	15.6%
Nebraska	262,008	39,281	15.0%
Nevada	311,821	46,483	14.9%
New Hampshire	187,795	44,425	23.7%
New Jersey	1,274,616	339,536	26.6%
New Mexico	263,218	69,477	26.4%
New York	3,072,149	1,237,610	40.3%
North Carolina	1,373,585	383,755	27.9%
North Dakota	106,671	16,158	15.1%
Ohio	1,831,528	423,445	23.1%
Oklahoma	543,627	201,112	37.0%
Oregon	548,107	98,571	18.0%
Pennsylvania	1,986,044	547,302	27.6%
Rhode Island	163,286	33,932	20.8%
South Carolina	634,775	18,218	2.9%
South Dakota	111,149	19,536	17.6%
Tennessee	916,357	115,045	12.6%
Texas	3,212,191	149,709	4.7%
Utah	273,061	42,453	15.5%
Vermont	92,236	26,313	28.5%
Virginia	1,042,462	191,478	18.4%
Washington	899,862	104,374	11.6%
West Virginia	269,383	87,166	32.4%
Wisconsin	889,665	173,000	19.4%
Wyoming	73,275	12,031	16.4%
All States	44,348,537	8,271,186	18.7%

Source: CPS ASEC 2005-2007, State Data Reports 12/15/09

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Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program - Winter Heating Program Purchasing Power (12/17/09)

Est. Average % of Home Heating Purchased with LIHEAP (FY 05- FY 10)

Fiscal Year	Heating Oil	Natural Gas	Propane	Electricity	All Fuels
2005	27.2%	43.4%	29.0%	44.3%	40.3%
2006	30.2%	45.2%	33.4%	54.1%	44.9%
2007	20.1%	35.7%	21.6%	35.1%	32.3%
2008	16.9%	38.4%	19.6%	38.3%	33.3%
2009	26.5%	55.5%	25.3%	51.8%	47.6%
2010	21.5%	52.9%	24.2%	43.9%	42.8%

Est. Home Heating Costs (2004-05 to 2009-10)

Winter Heating Season	Heating Oil	Natural Gas	Propane	Electricity	All Fuels
2004-05	\$1,176	\$738	\$1,103	\$722	\$793
2005-06	\$1,409	\$943	\$1,277	\$787	\$948
2006-07	\$1,445	\$815	\$1,347	\$828	\$900
2007-08	\$1,953	\$858	\$1,681	\$861	\$990
2008-09	\$1,864	\$889	\$1,950	\$953	\$1,038
2009-10	\$1,911	\$778	\$1,700	\$938	\$962
% Change 2005-09	58.5%	20.5%	76.8%	32.0%	30.9%
% Change 2009-10	2.5%	-12.5%	-12.8%	-1.6%	-7.3%

Est. Households Served & Average Grant (FY 05- FY 10)

Fiscal Year	Appropriation (in thousands)	Households (in thousands)	Average Grant
2005	\$2,186,000	5,083	\$320
2006	\$3,162,000	5,521	\$426
2007	\$2,186,000	5,592	\$291
2008	\$2,570,000	5,798	\$330
2009	\$5,100,000	7,684	\$494
2010	\$5,100,000	9,221	\$412

Source: State reports, US Energy Information Administration
 Households estimates based on FY 2009 State Reports.
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