

What is LIHEAP?



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association

www.icaanet.org
217-789-0125

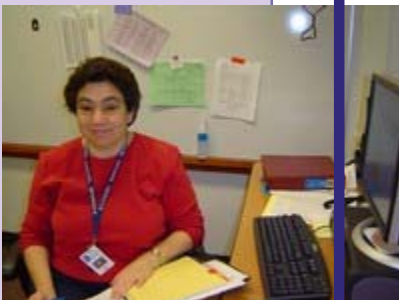
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The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides *bill paying assistance, energy conservation counseling, outreach activities, & supportive services* to low-income families with high energy bills.

LIHEAP is administered by *Community Action Agencies* at the local level.

What are Community Action Agencies?



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Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are created by their local governments as public or private entities to serve two primary *purposes*:

- 1) to provide essential antipoverty programs; &
- 2) to advocate for the needs of the poor in their communities.

A CAA's *board of directors is unique*, comprised of an equal number of local elected officials, private sector representatives and representatives of the low-income population.

Examples of programs administered locally by CAAs include Anti-Drug Abuse, Economic Development, Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), Foster Grandparents, Head Start, Homeless Assistance, Housing, Job Counseling & Training, Literacy Training and Basic Education, Outreach & Referral, Senior Assistance, Surplus Food Distribution, Transportation, Weatherization, & Women, Infants & Children (WIC).

Why is there a need for LIHEAP?



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Oftentimes low-income families have no choice but to rent *sub-standard housing* that is not energy efficient.

Most LIHEAP homes are heated by natural gas. *Natural gas* prices have risen dramatically in recent years.

The average American family spends 4-6 % of household income on energy, where low-income families spend *18% even after LIHEAP assistance*.

A warm home is a basic *human right*.

Priorities for LIHEAP Appropriations in 2006.....



Congress should approve an extra **\$1 billion appropriation** for this year's program (\$250 immediately available and \$750 in contingency funds).

ICAA recommends that Congress appropriate additional resources for next year's program - at least **\$3.5 billion.**

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