

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES**

**Resolution 2017-01**

**REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP) AND THE WEATHER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WAP)**

*Whereas*, on March 16, 2017, the Executive Office of the President released a budget blueprint for fiscal year 2018 that, among other particulars, would eliminate the funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP); and

*Whereas*, in previous Resolutions 2008-4 and 2009-7, NASUCA has strongly supported both programs as part of the life-saving safety net protecting millions of the nation's most vulnerable people, including the poor, the disabled, the elderly and the young; and

*Whereas*, the cost of home heating has remained unaffordable for millions of low-income American households, with an average annual price of \$783;<sup>1</sup> and

*Whereas*, LIHEAP provides vital assistance to almost 6.1 million very poor American households that rely each year on the program to help pay their home heating and cooling bills;<sup>2</sup> and

*Whereas*, the average grant is about \$458 per year and is only available for about 20% of eligible households;<sup>3</sup> and

*Whereas*, 70 percent of recipient households have at least one vulnerable and at-risk member who is elderly or disabled, or have a child under the age of six;<sup>4</sup> and

*Whereas*, LIHEAP's impact in many cases goes beyond providing bill payment assistance by playing a crucial role in maintaining family stability and improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations, enabling elderly citizens to live independently and ensuring that young children have safe, warm homes to live in;<sup>5</sup> and

*Whereas*, LIHEAP has been effectively and efficiently administered since it was created in 1980; and

*Whereas*, as shown in the table attached to this resolution, LIHEAP has assisted many households in every state and has made a very large financial contribution to meeting the energy needs of such households in every state;<sup>6</sup> and

*Whereas*, the Department of Energy's WAP program helps struggling households with older homes lower their utility bills so they can afford to remain in their homes; and

*Whereas*, the WAP program has over 40 years of success in reducing the burden of energy prices for low-income households through the installation of energy efficient measures, and has served 7 million households;<sup>7</sup> and

**Whereas**, the WAP program has developed and implemented exacting standards for ensuring its investments are cost-effective and provide long-lasting benefits to the participants; and

**Whereas**, the WAP program has helped to develop an energy efficiency industry for low-income housing, including workers who weatherize low-income homes, energy auditors, companies that help low-income families increase their energy efficiency through low-cost measures, and that develop and test new advances in home energy science; and

**Whereas**, the benefits of the program to its participants and their communities are approximately \$1.67 for every dollar of DOE WAP investment based on annual energy savings per gas-heated household of 30.5 million site Btus;<sup>8</sup> and

**Whereas**, potential system benefits such as decreased need for additional resources and lower long-term energy costs can be realized from the energy saved due to weatherization programs; and

**Whereas**, the weatherization program helped low-income households reduce their total energy expenditures by an estimated 23 percent per year, with participating households able to allocate scarce resources for other necessities and helping low-income communities with job growth and better housing;<sup>9</sup> and

**Whereas**, the average weatherized home reduces its carbon emissions by more than 1.7 tons per year for 20 years;<sup>10</sup> and

**Whereas**, local and state weatherization programs in the majority of the states have developed partnerships with local utilities (and other service agencies) that deliver and leverage the benefits of efficiency in low income communities;

**Whereas**, there is a vital need for continuing high funding levels and production, so as to help a substantial proportion of low-income households cope with the expected high home energy prices for the foreseeable future; and

**Whereas**, the state energy offices and other state agencies that administer the weatherization assistance programs and are often able to collaborate to bring other funds to help extend the reach of the weatherization funds, may also be in danger of losing federal funding;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved**, that NASUCA reaffirms its past strong support for the LIHEAP and WAP programs as essential life-saving safety net programs for the nation's most vulnerable people and urges Congress to increase the funding for these essential programs.

**Be it further resolved**, that NASUCA also supports adequate federal funding for the state energy offices and other state agencies that administer and assist in attaining the goals of the weatherization assistance program.

***Be it further resolved,*** that the Executive Committee is authorized to take action consistent with this resolution concerning funding levels for LIHEAP and WAP, including making requests for funding to Congress, as the Executive Committee deems appropriate.

***Be it further resolved,*** that the membership shall be notified of actions taken pursuant to this resolution.

Submitted by Consumer Protection Committee

Approved by the Membership June 5, 2017  
Denver, Colorado

Abstaining:  
Ohio  
Tennessee

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<sup>1</sup> National Energy Assistance Directors' Association, Press Release, "Statement in Response to the Administration's FY 2018 Budget Proposal" (March 17, 2017).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> The source of the figures in the table is the website of the National Energy & Utility Affordability Coalition website. See <http://neuac.org/advocacy/save-liheap/#statesheets>. Household information developed by NEUAC from (2011-2015) American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data, available at: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data/pums.html>. 2016 LIHEAP funding information derived from data available at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheapfy-2016-third-liheap-funding-release-and-anticipated-reallotment>.

<sup>7</sup> See, United States Department of Energy fact sheet on WAP, [https://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2017/01/f34/107598\\_WAP\\_FS\\_v1b.pdf](https://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2017/01/f34/107598_WAP_FS_v1b.pdf), last visited on March 25, 2017.

<sup>8</sup> From ORNL/Con-493 "Estimating The National Effects of the U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program With State-Level Data: A Metaevaluation Using Studies From 1993 to 2005", Martin Schweitzer, 2005, and energy expenditures based on the 2001 U.S. Energy Information Administration [EIA] Residential Energy Consumption Survey and prices from the EIA Annual Energy Outlook for 2009, Early Release.

<sup>9</sup> Weatherization Assistance Program Technical Assistance Center (WAPTAC), "Weatherization Works" updated July 2008 and WAP Overview citing ORNL/CON-493, ORNL/Con-484, EIA Feb.2008 STEO.

<sup>10</sup> ORNL/CON-493, ORNL/Con-484, EIA Feb.2008 STEO, from the WAPTAC, "Weatherization Works" updated July 2008 and WAPTAC WAP Overview.

**LIHEAP HOUSEHOLDS AND DOLLARS FY 2016**

<b>State</b>	<b>Households Served</b>	<b>2016 Allocation</b>
<b>Alabama</b>	76,948	\$43,551,071
<b>Alaska</b>	8,385	\$17,496,313
<b>Arizona</b>	23,726	\$21,061,817
<b>Arkansas</b>	63,797	\$27,857,843
<b>California</b>	219,265	\$177,168,033
<b>Colorado</b>	79,028	\$49,002,284
<b>Connecticut</b>	90,661	\$80,689,886
<b>Delaware</b>	13,633	\$12,573,831
<b>District of Columbia</b>	12,173	\$10,387,179
<b>Florida</b>	118,401	\$68,910,798
<b>Georgia</b>	128,481	\$54,484,552
<b>Hawaii</b>	8,806	\$5,486,895
<b>Idaho</b>	32,399	\$19,998,828
<b>Illinois</b>	230,121	\$166,270,241
<b>Indiana</b>	104,874	\$75,282,494
<b>Iowa</b>	80,346	\$53,353,713
<b>Kansas</b>	39,694	\$31,920,554
<b>Kentucky</b>	118,148	\$46,712,638
<b>Louisiana</b>	71,557	\$42,233,740
<b>Maine</b>	32,262	\$38,917,389
<b>Maryland</b>	104,480	\$72,254,634
<b>Massachusetts</b>	164,763	\$148,767,750
<b>Michigan</b>	454,618	\$157,859,020
<b>Minnesota</b>	132,786	\$113,728,493
<b>Mississippi</b>	36,451	\$29,051,131
<b>Missouri</b>	134,416	\$73,294,773
<b>Montana</b>	17,774	\$23,457,354
<b>Nebraska</b>	43,558	\$29,377,218
<b>Nevada</b>	24,965	\$9,892,109
<b>New Hampshire</b>	32,082	\$26,398,950
<b>New Jersey</b>	273,831	\$127,094,199
<b>New Mexico</b>	64,556	\$18,766,313
<b>New York</b>	1,034,274	\$364,241,895
<b>North Carolina</b>	191,288	\$86,702,402
<b>North Dakota</b>	12,298	\$25,481,783
<b>Ohio</b>	407,336	\$147,090,880
<b>Oklahoma</b>	121,680	\$36,844,135
<b>Oregon</b>	61,608	\$35,689,880
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	345,791	\$203,405,185
<b>Rhode Island</b>	29,772	\$26,001,646
<b>South Carolina</b>	42,425	\$34,588,425
<b>South Dakota</b>	22,180	\$20,695,670
<b>Tennessee</b>	105,616	\$56,100,554
<b>Texas</b>	98,437	\$114,644,576
<b>Utah</b>	31,082	\$23,825,423
<b>Vermont</b>	21,715	\$18,981,020
<b>Virginia</b>	145,788	\$83,926,259
<b>Washington</b>	61,514	\$58,704,936
<b>West Virginia</b>	86,471	\$28,865,924
<b>Wisconsin</b>	205,025	\$102,371,974
<b>Wyoming</b>	9,620	\$9,539,175

Source: <http://neuac.org/advocacy/save-liheap/#statesheets>. See endnote 6.