

News

February 4, 2008

President proposes 22 percent LIHEAP budget cut

To: NFFN members and allies:

The Senate is still scheduled to vote on the economic stimulus legislation on Wednesday. Senators Reed and Collins are expected to offer their amendment to add LIHEAP funding to the legislation. It now appears that the amendment will be for \$1 billion, split 50 percent - 50 percent between block grants and contingency funds.

Please contact your Senators one more time and ask (or confirm) that they vote for the amendment.

NFFN will keep you informed should this situation change.

The President released his annual budget request to Congress earlier today. The FY 2009 request included \$1.7 billion for LIHEAP block grants and \$300 million for contingency funding.

The total \$2.0 billion request is 22 percent less than the total \$2.57033 billion available for FY 2008. About \$160 million in contingency funds has not yet been committed.

According to the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association, "The impact on low income households would be severe. States would have few choices but to either reduce the share of winter home costs covered from 36.3 percent to 28.2 percent or the number of households served by 1.2 million from 5.8 million to 4.6 million."

NEADA's attached spreadsheet compares the FY 2008 state-by state block grant allocations (\$1.98 billion) with those proposed by the President (\$1.7 billion).

Please contact your Representatives and Senators and press for a LIHEAP appropriation of \$5.1 billion that would equal the maximum authorized amount, increase the national impact of the program, and bring the purchasing power of the LIHEAP dollar more in tune with rising home energy costs.

Visit www.liheap.org <<http://www.liheap.org>> for state by state fact sheets comparing LIHEAP's present impact with the impact if \$5.1 billion is appropriated. This action is particularly important if your Senator or Representative is a member of the Labor- HHS Appropriations Subcommittee and/or the Appropriations Committee. A list of these legislators is attached.

Thank you for your support of LIHEAP.

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LIHEAP: President's FY 09 Budget (\$'000)

State	FY 07 Continuing Resolution	FY 08 Omnibus Appropriation 1/	Pres. FY 09 Budget 2/	Difference (Pres. Minus 08 Block)	FY 08 Contingency Release 1/16
Alabama	\$16,774	\$16,774	\$14,402	-\$2,372	\$1,288
Alaska	10,707	10,707	9,193	-1,514	3,557
Arizona	8,112	8,112	6,965	-1,147	623
Arkansas	12,799	12,799	10,989	-1,810	983
California	89,985	89,985	77,260	-12,725	6,911
Colorado	31,375	31,375	26,938	-4,437	8,059
Connecticut	40,930	40,930	35,142	-5,788	13,598
Delaware	5,433	5,433	4,665	-768	827
District of Columbia	6,356	6,356	5,457	-899	488
Florida	26,541	26,541	22,788	-3,753	2,039
Georgia	20,985	20,985	18,017	-2,968	1,612
Hawaii	2,113	2,113	1,814	-299	162
Idaho	12,238	12,238	10,507	-1,731	940
Illinois	113,287	113,287	97,267	-16,020	29,100
Indiana	51,293	51,293	44,039	-7,254	13,176
Iowa	36,352	36,352	31,211	-5,141	9,338
Kansas	16,695	16,695	14,334	-2,361	4,288
Kentucky	26,693	26,693	22,918	-3,775	2,050
Louisiana	17,148	17,148	14,723	-2,425	1,317
Maine	26,516	26,516	22,766	-3,750	8,809
Maryland	31,340	31,340	26,908	-4,432	2,407
Massachusetts	81,873	81,873	70,295	-11,578	27,201
Michigan	107,556	107,556	92,346	-15,210	27,628
Minnesota	77,488	77,488	66,530	-10,958	19,905
Mississippi	14,381	14,381	12,347	-2,034	1,105
Missouri	45,251	45,251	38,852	-6,399	11,624
Montana	14,355	14,355	12,325	-2,030	3,687
Nebraska	17,978	17,978	15,436	-2,542	4,618
Nevada	3,810	3,810	3,271	-539	293
New Hampshire	15,497	15,497	13,306	-2,191	5,149
New Jersey	76,007	76,007	65,259	-10,748	25,251
New Mexico	10,156	10,156	8,720	-1,436	780
New York	248,173	248,173	213,078	-35,095	82,450
North Carolina	36,985	36,985	31,755	-5,230	2,841
North Dakota	15,594	15,594	13,389	-2,205	4,006
Ohio	100,219	100,219	86,047	-14,172	25,744
Oklahoma	15,418	15,418	13,238	-2,180	1,184
Oregon	24,317	24,317	20,878	-3,439	1,868
Pennsylvania	133,306	133,306	114,455	-18,851	44,288
Rhode Island	13,477	13,477	11,571	-1,906	4,477
South Carolina	13,322	13,322	11,438	-1,884	1,023
South Dakota	12,665	12,665	10,874	-1,791	3,253
Tennessee	27,039	27,039	23,215	-3,824	2,077
Texas	44,155	44,155	37,911	-6,244	3,391
Utah	14,580	14,580	12,518	-2,062	3,745
Vermont	11,616	11,616	9,973	-1,643	3,859
Virginia	38,175	38,175	32,777	-5,398	2,932
Washington	39,998	39,998	34,342	-5,656	3,072
West Virginia	17,665	17,665	15,167	-2,498	1,357
Wisconsin	69,750	69,750	59,886	-9,864	17,917
Wyoming	5,838	5,838	5,012	-826	1,500
Territories/HHS Training Funds	2,935	2,935	2,520	-415	203
Leveraging	26,749	26,749	22,966	-3,783	\$0
Total	\$1,980,000	\$1,980,000	\$1,700,000	-\$280,000	\$450,000

1/ The Omnibus appropriations bill, as signed by the President, includes \$590.3 million in contingency funds for a total appropriation of \$2.57 billion. With the 1/16 release of \$450 million there is a total of \$140.3 million in FY 08 funds and \$20 million in carryover contingency funds remaining for a total of \$160.3 million.

2/ The President's FY 09 Budget includes \$1.7 billion for the block grant and \$300 million in contingency funds for a total request of \$2 billion.

Contact: Mark Wolfe, National Energy Assistance Directors' Association, 202-237-5199, mlwolfo@neada.org. 2/4/08

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