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*LIHEAP UPDATE -- Continuing Resolution Doubles LIHEAP Funding*

To: NFFN members and allies

October 2, 2008

On September 30, the President signed the Continuing Resolution that funds most government programs through March 6, 2009. The legislation provides \$5.1 billion for LIHEAP in FY 2009, doubling the FY 2008 level. Achieving this funding level is a tremendous victory for people in need across the country. According to the House Appropriations Committee, the increased funding will allow LIHEAP to serve an additional 2 million households and raise the average grant from \$355 to \$550. **Congratulations and thank you** to NFFN members who have worked long and hard for the funding increase.

The CR provides \$5.1 billion for LIHEAP, of which \$4.5 billion would be for the basic grant, an increase of \$2.53 billion in the basic grant from \$1.98 billion in FY 08. The remaining \$590.3 million will be provided as emergency contingency funds, the same level as provided in FY 08. Of the funds provided for the basic grant, \$3.669 billion will be allocated by hold harmless or Tier 1 part of the formula and \$839.9 million by a different formula which allocates relatively more funds to warm weather states than the other formula.

In addition, the law:

1. Increases the eligibility ceiling from the greater of 150% of poverty or 60% of state median income to the greater of 150% of poverty or 75% of state median income,
2. Allows states to carryover any funds remaining from FY 08 to FY 09
3. Requires that funds provided be obligated within 30 days of enactment. According to the best information available to the National Energy Assistance Directors Association, Congress intended to include the obligation of the \$590.3 million in emergency contingency funds within 30 days.

The Continuing Resolution also increases FY 09 Weatherization Assistance Program FY 2009 funding from \$227 million to \$477 million.

State-by-state FY 2009 allocation spreadsheets for both LIHEAP and WAP are attached (Source: NEADA).

Note from George Coling: I apologize for some technical difficulties with our email last week when I was out of town. Many NFFN members received an email about the House passage of the bill several times, and some received a blank message several times.

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