
National Fuel Funds Network

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Energy Safety Net Bulletin #150

The NFFN kicked off the **National Action for LIHEAP** Tuesday with a news conference in Detroit where NFFN Chairperson Sue Montgomery Corey urged Congressional leaders to approve \$2.5 billion in additional funding for LIHEAP for the current fiscal year. Corey also urged the leadership in Congress to appropriate \$7.8 billion for LIHEAP for FY 2011. The president has requested \$3.3 billion for LIHEAP for the next fiscal year.

Also taking part in the news conference were DTE Vice President Fred Shell, chairperson of the Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm; Whitney Schraw, director of the Wayne County Office of the Michigan Department of Human Services; Dwayne Haywood, Michigan Public Service Commission Member Monica Martinez; Susan Sherer, CEO of THAW Fund and LIHEAP Recipient Markita Brown.

A copy of the NFFN's letter to Congress and Corey's statement at the news conference will be available at the National Action for LIHEAP page on the NFFN website March 29. Photographs are posted on the NFFN's Facebook page.

NFFN members in other cities are planning press conferences as part of the National Action. The Network will keep you posted and developed a special section of its website, <<http://www.nationalfuelfunds.org/NAL/index.html>>, to assist members to take action for LIHEAP.

The Network urges you to participate in the **National Action for LIHEAP**. Here's what you can do:

1. Write a letter to the members of your Congressional delegation asking them to approve \$2.5 billion in additional funding for LIHEAP for FY 2010 and to appropriate \$7.6 billion for LIHEAP for FY 2011. The **National Action for LIHEAP** page on the NFFN website -- <<http://www.nationalfuelfunds.org>> -- contains model letters to the House of Representatives and the Senate. You only need to fill in the blanks and mail it to the Congressional offices.
2. Arrange a meeting at your Representative's or Senator's district office. The Congressional home work period runs from March 29-April 9. Call the office to set up a meeting to discuss the need for additional funding for LIHEAP.

3. Hold a news conference to announce your support for increased funding for LIHEAP. Use the news conference to release the contents of the letters you sent to your delegation. Invite your local utility, agencies that administer LIHEAP, and local government officials to participate.
4. Use the NFFN's National Action for LIHEAP Toolkit for other ideas. The toolkit is available on the National Action for LIHEAP page of the NFFN's website.
5. Take photos. If you meet with a member of Congress or if you hold a news conference. Take photos and send the digital images to info@nationalfuelfunds.org, so they can be posted on our website or our Facebook page.
6. Use your Facebook page to spread the word about National Action for LIHEAP. Post a message supporting increased funding for LIHEAP as your Facebook status and encourage your friends to do the same.

National Energy and Utility Affordability Conference

- Online registration is open for the National Energy and Utility Affordability Conference. The conference, co-presented by the National Fuel Funds Network and the National Low Income Energy Consortium, will be held at the Hyatt Regency San Antonio Riverwalk hotel June 14-16. To view the program and register for the conference, visit <http://www.neuac.org>.

Fuel Fund Actions

- Susan Sherer has been named CEO of The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW). Ms. Sherer will oversee all of THAW's energy education, assistance and advocacy efforts throughout Michigan. At the time of her selection, Ms. Sherer was the founder and CEO of ShererInc, a company that provides a variety of corporate services. In 2005, she was executive director of the Detroit Super Bowl XL Host Committee.
- Oregon HEAT received a \$250,000 grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust to provide "emergency energy assistance" to Oregon families outside of the Portland metropolitan area. "We are working hard to raise funds across the state to help families in critical need of heat or lights. The Meyer Memorial Trust Grant is another superb example of how Oregonians step up to help their neighbors in times of need," said Roger Rees, Oregon HEAT's executive director.

Utility Actions

- Chesapeake Utilities' SHARING FUND distributed a record \$100,000 in assistance grants in 2009. The total is 50 percent more than what was distributed in 2008. The grants went to more than 400 customers in the Delmarva Peninsula.

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