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## *National Fuel Funds Network*

1010 Vermont Ave., NW, #718, Washington, DC 20005

202 824-0638 (fax), 202 824-0660 (phone)

<http://www.nationalfuelfunds.org>

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### **Energy Safety Net Bulletin #153**

The National Energy and Utility Affordability Conference opens one week from today at the Hyatt Regency San Antonio on the Riverwalk. The three-day conference will feature 56 workshops in seven tracks dealing with subjects including energy availability and sustainability, weatherization and energy efficiency, energy assistance and education, energy policy and advocacy, vulnerable populations, energy programs in Indian country, and utility and fuel program. If you cannot attend, but want to keep up with the informative speeches and panel discussions, you can get updates and view photos and videos from the conference on our Facebook page.

Thanks to NFFN members who have agreed to assist with the volunteer staffing of the conference. We have filled many slots with your kind commitments. There still are a few slots for which we need volunteer staffing. If you can help please contact our volunteers' coordinator, Jamie Krause, at <mailto:jamie.krause@txu.com> or 512.349.6429. Thanks also to those who contributed items for the conference's silent auction, raffle and/or bag promotions. If you haven't done so, there's still time to contribute any of these items. For details, see <http://www.nationalfuelfunds.org/2010%20Auction-Gift%20Basket-Bag%20Request%20Letter%20-%20web.pdf>

### **Fuel Fund Actions**

- Dollar Energy Fund and American Electric Power Ohio are teaming up again to bring back their successful Neighbor to Neighbor Program designed to help customers who have had their electric service disconnected. Last year, the program offered \$2.1 million in aid and provided assistance to more than 8,700 customers. The Neighbor to Neighbor Program is open to customers who have exhausted all other resources or do not meet the income requirements of other programs.
- The Washington Area Fuel Fund announced that it had topped \$20 million in contributions to local individual and families in need of energy assistance. Since the fuel fund began in 1983 it has provided assistance to more than 236,000 residents of the Washington metropolitan area.
- The West Virginia Utility Assistance Program has announced plans to hold a "Warmathon" on WCSH Radio 58 in November to raise funds to provide energy assistance for West Virginia residents.

## **Utility Actions**

- Reliant Energy announced that it will impose a voluntary moratorium on electricity disconnections from July 1 to September 30 for low income, seniors, and critical care customers. The Houston based utility also committed \$800,000 to assist low income and elderly residential customers with their electric bills through its Community Assistance from Reliant Energy (CARE) program.

## **NFFN's National Action for LIHEAP**

- Representatives of Southern California Gas, California State Senator Roderick Wright and two members of the State Assembly met with reporters in Los Angeles May 21 to urge Congress to approve \$5.2 billion in funding for LIHEAP. Photos from the news conference can be viewed on the NFFN's Facebook page.
- The NFFN and the American Gas Association are planning a Congressional lobbying effort on behalf of LIHEAP to take place in Washington Wednesday, July 28. The event is being timed to coincide with Congressional consideration of legislation providing funding for the federal energy assistance program for FY 2011. More information on this event will be made public following the National Energy and Utility Affordability Conference.

## **State Government Actions**

- The New York State Public Service Commission and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority held a statewide Low Income Energy Forum in Albany, May 18-19. The forum brought together organizations and individuals to encourage an exchange of information among programs and resources that assist low income energy consumers. The conference featured working group meetings concerning energy issues and consumer education as well as demonstrations of energy efficiency equipment and technology.

George Coling, Executive Director  
National Fuel Funds Network  
1010 Vermont Ave., NW Suite 718  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-824-0660  
[www.nationalfuelfunds.org](http://www.nationalfuelfunds.org)