

LIHEAP

Suggested Talking Points

neuac

LIHEAP helps...

- ✓ Many of America's most vulnerable, low-income households, including, those with seniors, disabled people, veterans and families with very young children in the home.
Protect the basic needs for heating and cooling in more than 7 million households each year.

How LIHEAP works...

States and their charitable partners can serve households earning up to 150% of Federal Poverty Guidelines or 60% of median income. For a three-person family in the US, that's less than \$30,240. The average LIHEAP household earns much less, about \$17,000 annually.

LIHEAP Challenges...

- ✓ LIHEAP appropriations have fallen by more than a third in five years. (\$5.1B to \$3.3B)
- ✓ Current funding levels provide only enough LIHEAP funding to serve one-fifth of eligible households. (35 million eligible, only about 7 million served)
- ✓ Although the economy has improved, it hasn't for LIHEAP households. Families are still struggling with under-employment and situational poverty, including job loss, lay-off and downsizing.
- ✓ While costs for energy are low at the present, the burden to low-income families is significant with many paying up to 30% of their income for utilities, or more.

Ask Congressional staff to...

- ✓ Concentrate all funds in Base grants, so states can better plan for and deliver assistance.
- ✓ Protect and increase LIHEAP appropriations for FY 2018.

Support for NEUAC's LIHEAP request includes...

Hundreds of diverse organizations across the U.S. that have signed our 'All Parties' letter. These organizations represent hundreds of thousands of individuals and advocates, including the Salvation Army, food banks, affordable housing providers, United Way, utility providers, tribes, workforce development groups and many, many more. (Show them and/or leave a copy of the letter)

Thank your congress person for their time and thank those who are supporting our request.