



**Energy Safety Net Bulletin # 174**

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Dear Member: Congress returns from its summer recess next week and is scheduled to begin work on the dozen appropriations bills that fund government agencies for the next fiscal year. House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rep. Hal Rogers has said his goal is to complete action on the bills before September 30, the end of the current fiscal year.

Other Capitol Hill sources have said that there is a good chance that a continuing resolution will be passed to allow for more time to complete the appropriations bills.

The Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill, which contains funding for LIHEAP, is only in the beginning stages of the legislative process. A mark-up of the bill was scheduled for August but was delayed when the Congress got bogged down in the debate over raising the debt ceiling.

We will monitor the progress of the LIHEAP appropriations and will keep you informed.

**Notice**

NFFN and American Gas Association will re-convene the national LIHEAP funding conference calls (Save LIHEAP Coalition) on Friday September 9 at 2PM Eastern time; 1-866-299-7945, Guest code –1600519#. Please watch your email early next week for an agenda and call-in details.

**LIHEAP Advocacy**

- NFFN Board Chairman Tom Stovall has written to President Obama to issue with a statement the president made about LIHEAP during a visit to Iowa in August. In response to a question about LIHEAP funding, the president said that funding for LIHEAP could be reduced because some states don't use all of the money they receive for the program.

In his letter to the president, Stovall pointed out that "LIHEAP in many states is a year-round energy assistance program and monies unspent during the heating season are used to provide cooling assistance during the summer months." Stovall also wrote that the NFFN membership understands "the need to reduce government spending but cutting an efficient and effective program like LIHEAP would leave millions of Americans without assistance at a time when it is dearly needed."

The National Energy Assistance Directors Association also wrote to the president concerning his statements.

- The Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm has sent letters to all 17 members of the Michigan Congressional delegation asking their support in defeating efforts to reduce funding for LIHEAP. A copy of the Coalition's letter is available at [http://coalitiontokeepmichiganwarm.com/getobject.aspx?file=CTKMW\\_Coalition\\_Letter](http://coalitiontokeepmichiganwarm.com/getobject.aspx?file=CTKMW_Coalition_Letter)

## Fuel Fund Activities

- Insurance company, GEICO, is donating \$10 to Dollar Energy Fund for every household who requests a quote on their home, auto, motorcycle, or boat and mentions Dollar Energy Fund through Sunday, September 4. The funds will be used to provide energy assistance to residents in West Virginia.
- In Seattle, the Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP), in order to make it easier for residents to apply for energy assistance, has made applications available on line. Residents, with internet access, can now download the application and then mail in the completed forms.

## Utility Actions

- Entergy, in response to the extended heat wave and record power usage within its service area, has allocated \$1 million to help elderly and disabled customers pay their summer energy bills. The utility will distribute \$500,000 to local nonprofit agencies in Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

Additionally, Entergy has launched a “Double Your Power” fundraising campaign to bolster its The Power to Care customer assistance fund. The utility will give \$2 for every dollar in new customer donations to The Power of Care fund, up to \$500,000.

- Ameren Missouri has announced that it will provide \$1 million in energy assistance to military families in need. The utility said it would issue \$1,000 grants to eligible households and the program will be in effect until November 30 or the funds have been depleted.

## Webinars

- On September 13, the Census Bureau will release its annual report on poverty, income and health insurance coverage. In advance of the report, the Coalition on Human Needs will conduct a webinar designed to help organizations better analyze and interpret this important information.

The webinar will be held on Thursday, September 8 from 1 pm to 2:15 pm EDT. To register for the webinar or to get more information visit: <https://chn.peachnewmedia.com/store/seminar/seminar.php?seminar=9173>.

- On August 18, the Coalition on Human Needs and the Community Action Partnership co-sponsored a webinar explaining the debt deficit agreement. The NFFN invited all of its members to participate in this webinar. If you could not take part in the webinar, the entire session is now available on line.

To hear the presentations and see the accompanying slides click on the following link and go to scroll down to “The Deficit Deal Explained Webinar” in the tool kit section. <http://www.chn.org/save4all/deficitdeal.html>.

## Help Wanted: Volunteers for NEUAC 2012

- Anyone who has attended the National Energy and Utility Affordability Conference in past years probably has developed an appreciation for all of the work that goes into making the conference a success. And much of the credit for getting the job done should go to the corps of volunteers to make the conference happen. From speakers and presenters to track leaders, workshop developers and moderators, from audio/visual specialists to room monitors, the registration desk support team and the people who stuff registration bags before the conference begins, it takes an entire village to make NEUAC work. That’s what this particular message is all about. We not only are counting on you being a part of next year’s conference — set for June 11-13, 2012, at the Sheraton New Orleans in the heart of New Orleans’ French Quarter — but also hope you will consider serving as a volunteer. It’s simple and easy to do. Visit <http://www.energyandutilityconference.org/2012%20%20Volunteer%20Opportunities.html> to learn more about the various volunteer opportunities.

## Reports and Studies

- The current recession has resulted in an increase in the number of children living in low-income households by 7 percent to 31 million and 7.8 million children lived with at least one unemployed parent in 2010, according to the annual Kids Count Data Book released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The complete report, including state by state rankings, can be found at

<http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Initiatives/KIDS%20COUNT/123/2011KIDSCOUNTDataBook/KCDataBook2011.pdf>.

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