

### **FY 2006 Appropriations Status**

Since full year funding for FY06 was not approved as of September 30, 2005, the end of the federal fiscal year, the Congress passed a continuing resolution providing for the lesser of the House or Senate spending level through November 18, 2005.

In FY05, Congress provided \$1.884 billion in regular grant authority and \$297 million in emergency funds. No funds were provided for advance funding.

### **FY06 Key Actions (as of October 10, 2005):**

- The President's Budget request for FY06 would reduce regular grant funding from FY05 levels by \$88.4 million to \$1.8 billion and emergency fund authority by \$97.6 million to \$200 million, thus reducing total spending by \$186 million.
- The House passed FY06 Labor, HHS, Education appropriations bill would increase regular grant funding by \$206 million to \$2.006 billion, but would provide no emergency fund authority, thus reducing total spending by \$180 million.
- The Senate reported FY06 Labor, HHS, Education appropriations bill would provide \$1.883 billion in grant funds and \$300 million in emergency funds, about the same level of funding as was provided in FY 05.
- Kerry/Kennedy/Reed Amendment: Senators Kerry and Kennedy and Reed filed an amendment to the Department of Defense appropriations bill on October 4, providing \$3.1 billion in emergency LIHEAP assistance. The \$3.1 billion coupled with the President's budget request level of \$2 billion, will fund the program at the \$5.1 billion level authorized in the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

The Senate voted on the LIHEAP amendment on October 5. Senator Stevens raised a budget point of order against the LIHEAP amendment. To waive the point of order, 60 Senators needed to vote in the affirmative. The final vote was 50 to 49 so the point of order was sustained and the amendment failed. The good news is that 50 Senators support \$3.1 billion in emergency spending for LIHEAP this winter.

The National Energy Assistance Directors' Association (NEADA) has called upon the Congress to increase FY 2006 LIHEAP funding to \$5.1 billion to address rising number of families requesting assistance and increasing energy prices. This is the same level of funding as was authorized by the Energy Policy Act.

### **Notes:**

1. The new formula only kicks in when the total amount of basic grant assistance exceeds about \$2 billion (\$1.975 billion, plus \$27.5 million for leveraging and REACH).
2. Congressional and Administration staff are currently discussing how to run the allocation of funds exceed \$1.975 billion. As such, NEADA will not produce any additional state-by-state numbers until this is resolved.

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