

National Energy Assistance Directors' Association

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STATES REPORT THAT LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS RAPIDLY INCREASE ADDING ALMOST 659,000 NEW FAMILIES

The National Energy Assistance Directors' Association (NEADA), representing the state directors' of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), today released its annual winter heating survey. As shown in the attached table, the total number of households receiving LIHEAP increased by about 336,000 between 2002 and 2003 and are projected to increase by an additional almost 323,000 in FY 2004. The estimates for FY 2004 are based on state projections based on the rate of growth in the program this year as compared to last year at this time.

According to Mark Wolfe, Executive Director of NEADA, the reasons for the increases are clear: continued high unemployment among low wage workers, rapidly rising energy prices and very cold weather conditions in many parts of the country. If the rate of increase continues, many states will not have sufficient funds available to run cooling programs this summer, provide assistance to families threatened with shut-off conditions this spring as winter heating moratoriums expire and continue to provide assistance for more than a few more weeks. In addition, many states will be required to reduce their benefit levels if the current rate of growth continues or will have to shut-their doors early to address the increase in energy assistance recipients.

According to the Energy Information Administration, average home heating costs for natural gas are expected to reach \$883 up from \$799 on 2003 and \$600 in 2002. Heating oil expenditures are projected at \$977, down from \$991 in 2003 and up from \$635 in 2002.

States with increases of above 20% since 2002 include: Alabama (29.4%), Arkansas (20.2%), California (105.8%), Indiana (23.9%), Kansas (31.9%), Maryland (23.5%), Minnesota (22.7%), Mississippi (31.9%), Nebraska (25.3%), New Hampshire (25.4%), New Jersey (38.3%), North Carolina (21.1%), Ohio (27.5%), Oklahoma (67.0%), Oregon (25%) and Texas (35.8%).

Background: In FY 2004, LIHEAP will provide \$1.789 billion in heating and cooling assistance and \$99.4 million in emergency funds. Tables listing state-by-state allocations are listed on the NEADA website – www.neada.org.

**Estimated Total Households Receiving LIHEAP Heating Assistance by State
Actuals in 2002, 2003; Projected in 2004**

State	Households Receiving LIHEAP			% Change		
	2002	2003	2004	02 to 03	03 to 04	02 to 04
Alabama	41,844	48,339	54,140	15.5%	12.0%	29.4%
Alaska	7,634	7,264	7,990	-4.8%	10.0%	4.7%
Arizona	23,591	27,646	27,646	17.2%	no change	17.2%
Arkansas	44,812	48,982	53,880	9.3%	10.0%	20.2%
California	92,777	139,876	190,905	50.8%	36.5%	105.8%
Colorado	79,614	83,171	96,000	4.5%	15.4%	20.6%
Connecticut	75,934	79,496	79,496	4.7%	no change	4.7%
Delaware	11,796	13,198	13,198	11.9%	no change	11.9%
District of Columbia	18,278	18,042	13,500	-1.3%	-25.2%	-26.1%
Florida	22,153	24,793	24,793	11.9%	no change	11.9%
Georgia	76,320	83,131	84,794	8.9%	2.0%	11.1%
Hawaii	6,114	6,627	6,627	8.4%	no change	8.4%
Idaho	29,827	29,867	29,867	0.1%	no change	0.1%
Illinois	286,725	316,329	316,329	10.3%	no change	10.3%
Indiana	116,698	126,855	144,615	8.7%	14.0%	23.9%
Iowa	75,357	77,853	85,638	3.3%	10.0%	13.6%
Kansas	31,834	38,346	42,000	20.5%	9.5%	31.9%
Kentucky	95,581	111,988	111,988	17.2%	no change	17.2%
Louisiana	21,056	15,958	15,958	-24.2%	no change	-24.2%
Maine	46,925	45,289	47,553	-3.5%	5.0%	1.3%
Maryland	66,186	77,825	81,719	17.6%	5.0%	23.5%
Massachusetts	131,569	136,441	143,263	3.7%	5.0%	8.9%
Michigan	319,938	334,817	334,817	4.7%	no change	4.7%
Minnesota	111,625	122,327	137,006	9.6%	12.0%	22.7%
Mississippi	23,153	30,536	30,536	31.9%	no change	31.9%
Missouri	99,522	104,453	104,453	5.0%	no change	5.0%
Montana	16,974	17,550	20,000	3.4%	14.0%	17.8%
Nebraska	25,952	27,095	32,514	4.4%	20.0%	25.3%
Nevada	15,665	15,597	16,377	-0.4%	5.0%	4.5%
New Hampshire	24,876	27,131	31,201	9.1%	15.0%	25.4%
New Jersey	124,783	151,333	172,520	21.3%	14.0%	38.3%
New Mexico	34,416	37,594	39,474	9.2%	5.0%	14.7%
New York	689,296	692,000	730,060	0.4%	5.5%	5.9%
North Carolina	161,953	166,117	196,117	2.6%	18.1%	21.1%
North Dakota	13,530	14,243	14,955	5.3%	5.0%	10.5%
Ohio	248,528	275,506	316,832	10.9%	15.0%	27.5%
Oklahoma	46,682	77,959	77,959	67.0%	no change	67.0%
Oregon	58,934	58,946	73,683	0.0%	25.0%	25.0%
Pennsylvania	296,222	305,681	323,597	3.2%	5.9%	9.2%
Rhode Island	24,379	25,900	28,490	6.2%	10.0%	16.9%
South Carolina	28,810	27,505	27,505	-4.5%	no change	-4.5%
South Dakota	15,078	16,075	17,361	6.6%	8.0%	15.1%
Tennessee	59,566	59,566	59,566	0.0%	no change	0.0%
Texas	19,769	19,315	26,848	-2.3%	39.0%	35.8%
Utah	32,031	32,725	34,361	2.2%	5.0%	7.3%
Vermont	17,935	18,079	19,887	0.8%	10.0%	10.9%
Virginia	91,553	92,311	92,311	0.8%	no change	0.8%
Washington	56,166	63,538	63,538	13.1%	no change	13.1%
West Virginia	53,592	64,017	64,017	19.5%	no change	19.5%
Wisconsin	117,326	131,676	131,676	12.2%	no change	12.2%
Wyoming	8,800	8,800	8,800	0.0%	no change	0.0%
Total	4,239,679	4,575,708	4,898,360	7.9%	7.0%	15.5%

Source: State reports to HHS and phone surveys, FY 2004 data based on state survey conducted during the first two weeks in February 2004.