

National Energy Assistance Directors' Association

For Immediate Release

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States Call on Congress to Approve Additional Funding for LIHEAP Applications Reaching Record Levels States Begin to Exhaust Funds

WASHINGTON, DC

State LIHEAP agencies today warned that local agencies will soon begin to run out of funds as a result of rising applications. As shown in the attached table, the number of applications are up by 10.8% more than last year at this time and are expect to reach at least 5.6 million this year, the highest level in the last 12 years.

As shown in the attached table, while applications for heating assistance are up an average of 10%, 12 states are projecting increases of at least 25%: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Kansas, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming.

As a result of rising applications, states are beginning to run out of program funds, and some starting this week with South Dakota, will run out of funds. These states include: Arkansas (end of January), Delaware (end of January), Florida (local agencies will begin to run out of funds by the end of December), Indiana (10 of 24 local agencies will be out of funds by the end of January), Iowa (end of January), Maryland (end of February), North Carolina (some agencies are running low on funds), New York (will stop taking applications by the end of January).

The increase in applications is a direct result of high energy prices. As shown below, home heating prices have been rising steadily for the last three years. According to Mark Wolfe, Executive Director of NEADA, three years ago energy was affordable for most households, today's prices are not affordable for poor as well as lower middle income families. Last night's rejection by the Congress to add \$2 billion for LIHEAP is shameful and will cause needless suffering this winter by the nation's poor and vulnerable households.

Est. Change in Home Heating Costs (01 - 06)

Winter Heating Season	Heating Oil	Natural Gas	Propane
2001-02	\$627	\$465	\$736
2002-03	\$951	\$600	\$928
2003-04	\$903	\$655	\$962
2004-05	\$1,199	\$743	\$1,102
2005-06	\$1,454	\$1,024	\$1,269
% Change 02-06	131.9%	120.2%	72.4%
% Change 05-06	21.3%	37.8%	15.2%

The National Energy Assistance Directors' Association represents the state LIHEAP directors.
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