

PRESS RELEASE

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The # of Military Families Receiving LIHEAP Increases by 156% Since 2008

The National Energy Assistance Directors' Association (NEADA) representing the state directors of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) released the results of their latest survey of LIHEAP recipients. The survey was based on phone calls to more than 1,000 current program recipients. A copy of the survey is attached.

Key Findings: The number of veterans has increased from 12 percent of total recipients to 20% since 2008, increasing from 695,760 in FY 2008 to 1.78 million in FY 2011. During this period the overall program grew by 54% while the number of veterans households increased by more than 150%. Veteran households in fact accounted for almost 35% of total growth in the program between FY 2008 and 2011. Of specific interest, 12% of all veterans receiving LIHEAP have served in Iraq or Afghanistan. Seven percent of military families are currently serving in the military.

According to Mark Wolfe, Executive Director of NEADA, the increase in veterans' families mirrors the overall increase in LIHEAP across the country. It also clearly demonstrates that LIHEAP is reaching some of the nation's poorest families – including those who have served their nation in times of peace as well as war.

Interviews with LIHEAP families are posted on the Faces of LIHEAP webpage – www.neada.org/faces.

Category/Veterans	# SubCategory	% of Total	% of Total Recipients
Total Veterans	1,782,000		20%
60+	1,140,480	64%	13%
60+ and Social Security, Pensions, or Other Retirement	980,100	55%	11%
Under 60	641,520	36%	7%
Employed	534,600	30%	6%
In job training	231,660	13%	3%
Disabled	873,180	49%	10%
Child under 18	445,500	25%	5%
Served in Iraq/Afghanistan	213,840	12%	2%
Note: totals do not add to 100% due to some Veterans are in multiple categories			

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