

NEADA

National Energy Assistance Directors' Association

October 1, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell,

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides heating and cooling assistance to about 6.0 million very low-income households across the country. LIHEAP is one of the first programs to start providing services right after the beginning of the fiscal year. This allows programs, especially those in the cold weather states, to quickly sign up vulnerable low income households prior to the start of the winter heating season.

As the winter heating season approaches, we are concerned that any delay in releasing program funds will cause unnecessary hardships to the households that we serve. Thus, we are writing to respectfully request that the Department of Health and Human Services release FY 2016 LIHEAP funds at the same level as provided in FY 2015 as quickly as possible in order to allow the program to provide services to address immediate needs as the winter heating season gets underway.

Please feel free to contact us if we can provide you with any additional information on the need for the release of funds or other questions regarding the delivery of energy assistance services.

Sincerely,

Susan Brown

Susan Brown, Chair
National Energy Assistance Directors Association (NEADA)

cc: Shaun Donovan, Director, OMB