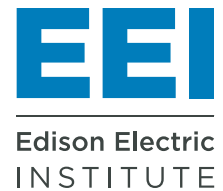


Keeping Energy Affordable

Electric Companies Support the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)



The 3 Key Facts You Need

- 1** Millions of American families struggle to afford basic necessities. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a vital source of aid, helping them pay their energy bills and avoid having to choose between energy and other essentials, like food or medicine. Access to affordable energy is a matter of health and safety.
- 2** LIHEAP is an essential, widely supported federal program that delivers critical short-term aid to some of our nation's most vulnerable citizens. Although approximately 35 million households across the nation are eligible for LIHEAP assistance, inadequate funding for the program means that only 6.8 million receive basic help to pay their energy bills.
- 3** Each year, electric companies contribute millions of dollars to energy assistance programs for vulnerable customers and provide access to home weatherization programs, but the need for LIHEAP remains critical nationwide. EEI and the National Energy & Utility Affordability Coalition work together to advocate for Congress to fund LIHEAP.



More than 70 percent of households helped by LIHEAP are home to either a child under 5, an elderly resident, or someone with a disability.

Key Facts About LIHEAP

- LIHEAP distributes funding to states, territories, and tribal governments, which in turn use the funds to help low-income households in their jurisdictions with **home heating and cooling costs**. LIHEAP funds also are used for **emergency situations** and for **weatherization services**.
- The need for LIHEAP is immense: **less than one out of five LIHEAP-eligible households actually receives energy assistance**.
- Unlike some federal assistance programs that see their funding increase with need, like Social Security or food stamps, **LIHEAP funding must be appropriated annually** by Congress.
- More than 70 percent** of households receiving LIHEAP include at least one person with a disability, a child under 5, or a senior citizen.
- To be eligible for LIHEAP assistance, a family may only earn up to 150 percent of the federal poverty level—about \$30,000 annually for a family of three—or 60 percent of the state's median income level. The majority of LIHEAP recipients fall well below the minimum income requirements: the median annual income of a typical three-person family receiving LIHEAP assistance is **just \$17,000**.
- LIHEAP funding has been cut severely** in recent years. In FY 2011, when the funding level was \$4.7 billion, only 9 million households received LIHEAP funds. LIHEAP funding for FY 2019 is \$3.69 billion, forcing states to drop families from the program, reduce benefits, or both.
- For the third consecutive year, the current Administration has proposed eliminating LIHEAP funding for the following year, which would harm millions of American families.

Funding LIHEAP Is Essential for American Families

Keeping energy affordable is a top priority for America's electric companies. Electric companies offer programs and services that help low-income customers afford their energy bills and protect their homes from weather extremes.

Despite these efforts, millions of American families need additional assistance to pay for energy. Fortunately, the LIHEAP program exists to provide short-term help to families in distress. Its recipients are among America's most vulnerable citizens: 19 percent of households receiving LIHEAP assistance are home to a child under 5, 20 percent include a veteran, 35 percent include an elderly resident, and 40 percent include a person with a disability. Because of limited funding, the majority of families eligible for LIHEAP aid—four in every five—fail to receive it.

To provide America's most vulnerable citizens with the heating, lighting, and cooling essential for life, health, and safety, LIHEAP must be funded adequately. Congress should ensure funding for this vital safety-net program and reject any budget that does not help low-income Americans struggling to afford their energy bills.



Because of limited funding, four in every five LIHEAP-eligible families don't receive any assistance.

Our Policy Platform

The President and Congress should save LIHEAP, ensuring LIHEAP funding and preserving this vital safety net for millions of vulnerable Americans.

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The Edison Electric Institute (EEI) is the association that represents all U.S. investor-owned electric companies. Our members provide electricity for about 220 million Americans, and operate in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. As a whole, the electric power industry supports more than 7 million jobs in communities across the United States. In addition to our U.S. members, EEI has more than 60 international electric companies, with operations in more than 90 countries, as International Members, and hundreds of industry suppliers and related organizations as Associate Members. Organized in 1933, EEI provides public policy leadership, strategic business intelligence, and essential conferences and forums.