



**EELI Low Income Best Practices Workshop  
Advocacy 101  
Support LIHEAP website announcement**



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**Congress Considers Reduction of LIHEAP Dollars**  
**- *Tell your legislators you support current funding***

For over 25 years, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has provided assistance funds to help our most vulnerable citizens - the elderly, disabled and low-income families with small children - pay their home energy bills.

Last year, advocates and partners played a vital role in securing new funding for LIHEAP. Through your efforts, and the efforts of others around the nation, Congress heard – loud and clear. As a result, 2006 funding was the highest LIHEAP appropriation ever - \$3.1 billion nationally. Even today, many needy and qualified families are receiving help they desperately need.

However, proposed legislation for 2007 LIHEAP funding contains only \$2 billion - a \$1 billion cut. Considering less than 20 percent of eligible households will receive help this year, such a reduction will significantly impact those families who are most at risk.

The proposed LIHEAP reduction may mean up to 600,000 families nationwide losing energy assistance next year. Further, even with mild weather and a decrease from last year's home energy prices, the ranks of those eligible and applying for LIHEAP continues to grow.

Fortunately, the battle for more LIHEAP funding is not over. We have much work to do, and you can help. To ensure that Congress continues to hear about the urgent need for increased LIHEAP funding, the Edison Electric Institute (EELI) has again launched their advocacy website - <http://www.supportliheap.org>.

We encourage you to take a moment to visit the site. It's a quick and convenient channel to reach your legislators, including your senators and Congressional (House) representative. It provides you a quick and easy way to encourage them to vote favorably for maintaining or increasing LIHEAP funding. Last year, through this website, thousands of Congressional contacts were generated concerned citizens. With your help again this year, Congress will heed our call, and thousands of American families will receive much-needed energy payment assistance.

**Visit the LIHEAP site:** <http://www.supportliheap.org>