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NATIONAL ENERGY & UTILITY AFFORDABILITY COALITION

NEUAC Overview

LIHEAP Policy Update

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ALLOW MYSELF TO INTRODUCE

Who are you and why are you here?

How long is this going to take, anyway?

Why should I pay attention to you for the next 50 minutes instead of reading my email?

What are the stakes?

MYSELF



Home is supposed to be a safe place.



What is a “NEUAC,” anyway?



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“We rise by lifting others.”

NATIONAL ENERGY & UTILITY AFFORDABILITY COALITION

Improve awareness and understanding of the nature and magnitude of limited-income energy and utility challenges

Formulate and advance limited-income energy policy through compilation, analysis, and dissemination of data

Provide technical assistance in the creation and development of fuel funds and promote the development of statewide and regional fuel funds

Currently located in the **DuPont Circle neighborhood of Washington D.C.**, NEUAC staff work with our committed members to advance our mission



NEUAC Board Members from AZ



City of Avondale, AZ

Sheryl Steele, Family Services Manager



Maricopa County Human Services
Sandra Mendez, Assistant Director



Salt River Project

Bonnie Temme,
Community Relations Program Manager



AZ NEUAC Members – our family in the southwest!

Nonprofit/Government Organizations Partners

Wildfire: Igniting Community Action to End
Poverty in Arizona

AZCEND

Maricopa County Community Services Division

Foundation Senior Living

Tempe Community Action Agency

**AZ NEUAC Members –
our family in the southwest!**

Tribal Partners

Navajo Nation

Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community

San Carlos Apache Tribe

AZ NEUAC Members – our family in the southwest!

Utilities and Municipalities Partners

Arizona Public Service

City of Phoenix Arizona

City of Avondale

City of Scottsdale, AZ

City of Surprise, AZ

City of Tolleson, AZ

Town of Gila Bend, AZ

Town of Guadalupe, AZ

Salt River Project



Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

- Block grant, established in 1981
- Congress appropriates funds annually
 - Advocacy
- \$3.65 billion released in FY19
- Nearly 6 million households were served in 2018
 - 25,918 of those are in AZ (3.9% of those eligible)
- 28 million households eligible
 - 654,898 of those are in AZ



*The mission of LIHEAP is to assist low income households, particularly those with the lowest incomes that pay a high proportion of household income for home energy, to help meet their **immediate home energy needs**.*



LIHEAP Policy Update FY20

Administration:  

House: \$150 million increase

Senate: Flat funding

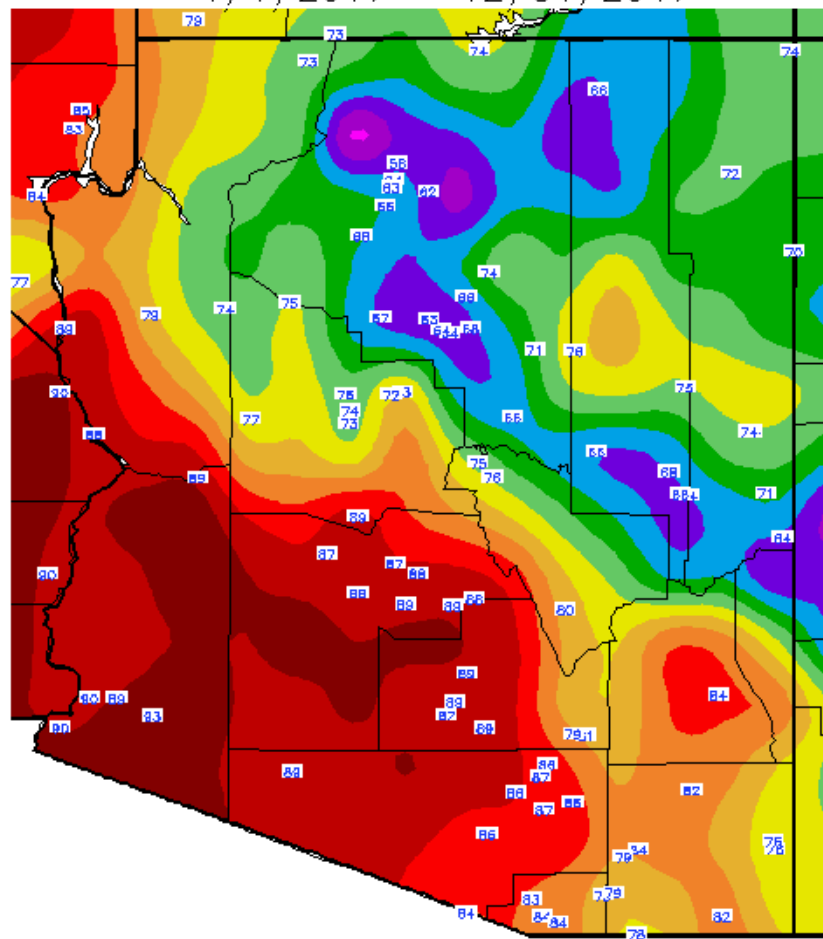
Temporary funding bill has been signed with flat funding.

- Expires November 21.

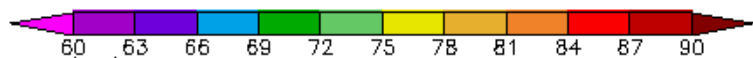
Sidebar: Other proposed legislation that pertains to LIHEAP...



Av. Max. Temperature (deg. F)
1/1/2017 – 12/31/2017



Arizona
and energy
insecurity:
a snapshot
of your state



Generated 1/1/2018 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Snapshots



- Arizonans spend an average of \$400/year on A/C
 - Almost double the national average (US EIA)
 - *Anyone know someone who has spent \$500/month in summer with the thermostat at 80 degrees F?*
- The amount of air conditioning that a resident of Tucson would want to use each year has increased by a little more than a third since 1970 (Climate Central)

Snapshots



- LIHEAP serves roughly twice as many households for cooling (15,650 in FY17) as heating (7,893 in FY17) in AZ
- \$135,058,380 - Expenditures for overall heating AZ FY17
- \$206,741,733 – Expenditures for overall cooling AZ FY17

Phoenix – hot and getting hotter

- Average First 100 °F Day
 - May 12 (all-time)
 - May 2 (1981-2010)
 - 10 days difference; it is hotter earlier*
- 2018: Phoenix hit the 100-degree mark on April 10
- Hottest year on record: 2017
 - 13 record high temperatures broken
 - No record low temperatures

Unique to hot, dry climates...

- Swamp coolers

“The top three worst things about having a swamp cooler: June, July and August.”



Poverty in Arizona

- Ranked 12th for overall poverty rate in 2017 (Center for American Progress, US Census) – 14.9%
- Elders and “working poor”
 - Low-wage earners with below average benefits and lower pay scales (ex. hospitality, food service) (~26% of all jobs in AZ)



Energy Burden

Definition: The percentage of household income spent on energy bills.

Example 1: \$5,000/month income
\$250/month energy costs
Energy burden is 5%

Example 2: \$1,667/month income
\$250/month
Energy burden is 15%





A Math Problem...

2018 Federal Poverty Level was equal to \$25,100
for a family of four, annually.

However, the average LIHEAP household makes less
than \$20,000.

After taxes, take home pay would be about \$18,000.

After rent or mortgage, reduced to \$6,000, or
\$500/month.

The challenges can seem overwhelming.

Do what you can, with what
you have, where you are.

Theodore Roosevelt

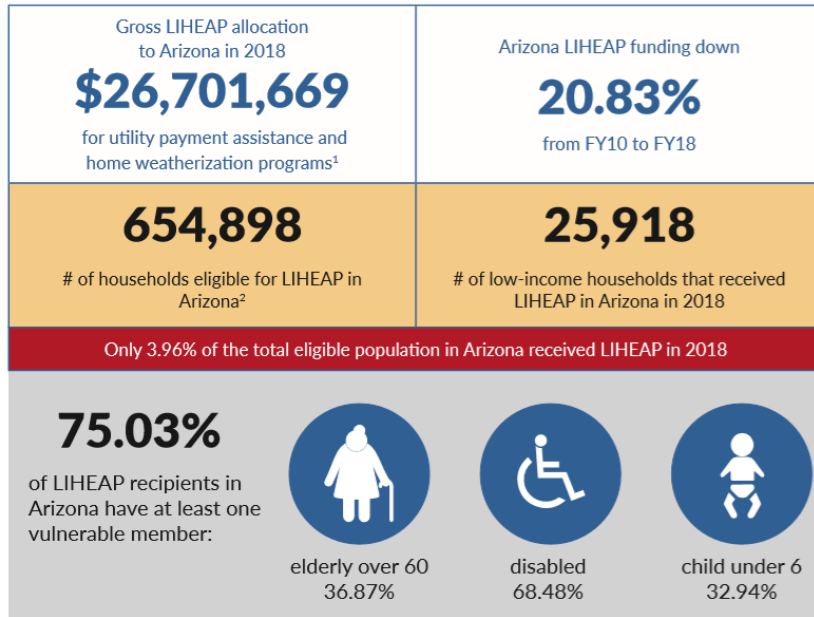


How are LIHEAP funds used to reduce energy burden?

- To help households meet their home energy costs
- To assist when households face an energy crisis
- For low-cost weatherization measures
- To provide services to reduce the need for energy assistance
- Repair or replace HVAC systems in times of crisis

PROTECT LIHEAP IN 2020

Arizona By the Numbers



Federal home heating/cooling assistance saves Arizona lives.

NEUAC urges Congress to protect LIHEAP funding for FY20.

www.neuac.org

Why Protect LIHEAP Funding?

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides critical home heating and cooling help to millions of vulnerable American families. LIHEAP funding peaked when Congress appropriated \$5.1 billion for the program in FY09 and FY10. Since then, funding has fallen by more than one-third. Because of these cuts, one million fewer eligible households receive energy assistance, and average individual grants have been reduced.³

LIHEAP is not an entitlement.

Unlike entitlement programs, LIHEAP is funded by the annual congressional appropriations process. While states set eligibility rates, federal law sets the income maximum at 150 percent of the federal poverty guideline, or 60 percent of a state's median income. For example, 150 percent of the FY17 poverty guideline for a family of three is \$30,630.⁴ Most LIHEAP recipients earn much less than the maximum thresholds: the latest data show that a typical LIHEAP recipient household had a median income of 83.5 percent of the federal poverty guideline.⁵

The need for LIHEAP remains high.

In 2015, the national poverty rate was 13.5 percent, and 43.1 million Americans lived in poverty. These numbers remain above pre-recession levels.⁶

LIHEAP prioritizes vulnerable households.

More than 70 percent of LIHEAP recipient households had at least one vulnerable person - a senior aged 60 or older, a child aged 5 or under, or an individual with a disability.⁷

LIHEAP makes the difference.

The Federal Reserve found that nearly half of American families would struggle to pay for an emergency expense costing \$400.⁸ LIHEAP frequently meets those exact short-term emergencies and can be the difference between making ends meet or not.

SAVE LIHEAP

Sources

1. FY10-17 Data, HHS: "FY2018 reflects preliminary data pending final data validation"
2. Eligible households, households served and vulnerable household statistics supplied from state reports and are preliminary for FY2018
3. NEADA Purchasing Power Table
4. LIHEAP IM 2017-02 <https://www.acl.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-im-2017-02-fy-2017-hhs-federal-poverty-guidelines>
5. HHS FY2017 Budget Justification https://www.acl.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/olab/final_cl_2017_print.pdf
6. US Census Bureau: "Income and Poverty in the United States: 2015" <http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2016/demo/p60-256.pdf>
7. LIHEAP state reports
8. "Report on the Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2015" <https://www.federalreserve.gov/2015-report-economic-well-being-us-households-201605.pdf>



Statewide AZ LIHEAP Assistance

Heating Assistance

- served 7,893 households with a reported average benefit of \$488.

Cooling Assistance

- served 15,650 households with a reported average benefit of \$378.

Year-Round Crisis Assistance

- served 5,134 households with a reported average benefit of \$449.

Weatherization Assistance

- served 513 households with a calculated average benefit of \$6,066.

National Average Benefit Levels Across All Grantees:

Fiscal Year	Grantee	Average Benefits per Household - Heating	Average Benefits per Household - Cooling	Average Benefits per Household - Winter Crisis	Average Benefits per Household - Year Round Crisis
2017*	All grantees(summed)	\$383	\$322	\$235	\$118

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Data Warehouse

What else exists to help people?

- Salvation Army
- St. Vincent dePaul
- Utility Discount Programs
- Utility Bill Assistance
- Payment Plans
- Weatherization

Are there other resources to alleviate energy poverty in your communities?



Social Media Education

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps the most vulnerable American families afford their home energy bills.

LIHEAP helps keep our neighbors safe and warm in their homes.

#ProtectLIHEAP

Source: 2018 National Energy Assistance Survey



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Social Media Education

One in four

households helped by LIHEAP cannot afford to fix or replace the broken cooling system in their home.

LIHEAP helps keep our most vulnerable neighbors safe.

#ProtectLIHEAP

Source: 2018 National Energy Assistance Survey



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Social Media Education

One in three

households helped by LIHEAP has
at least one child younger than 18.

LIHEAP helps keep children from
doing their homework in the dark.

#ProtectLIHEAP

Source: 2018 National Energy Assistance Survey



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Social Media Education

Nine out of ten

households helped by LIHEAP has at least one elderly person, child, or person with a disability.

LIHEAP helps keep our most vulnerable neighbors safe.

#ProtectLIHEAP

Source: 2018 National Energy Assistance Survey



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Social Media Education

Four out of five

households helped by LIHEAP has
an annual income below \$20,000.

LIHEAP helps keep our most
vulnerable neighbors safe.

#ProtectLIHEAP

Source: 2018 National Energy Assistance Survey



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Social Media Education

One out of three households helped by LIHEAP went without food for at least one day in the past year.

LIHEAP helps keep our most vulnerable neighbors safe.

#ProtectLIHEAP

Source: 2018 National Energy Assistance Survey



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Social Media Education

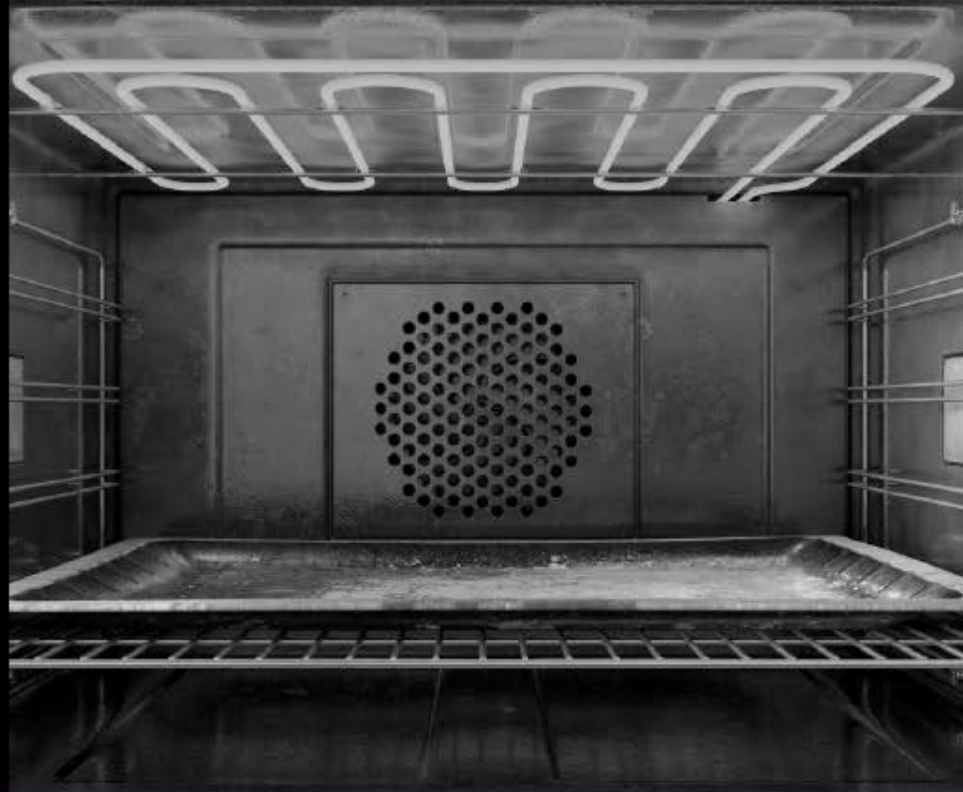
Three out of ten

households receiving LIHEAP used their kitchen stove or oven to provide heat.

LIHEAP helps keep our neighbors safe and warm in their homes.

#ProtectLIHEAP

Source: 2018 National Energy Assistance Survey



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What
can
YOU
do?

8 Arizona Advocates for LIHEAP

1. Coconino County
2. Gila River Indian Community
Community Services Department
3. Liberty Utilities
4. Navajo Nation
5. Salt River Project
6. Tucson Electric Power Co.
7. Wildfire: Igniting Community Action
to End Poverty in Arizona
8. World Hunger Ecumenical
Arizona Task Force, Inc. (WHEAT)

*Signed the
Open Letter
to Congress
in Support of
LIHEAP*

LIHEAP Action Days

- February 25-26, 2020
Washington, D.C.
- Stories from your constituents
- Demo the impact of LIHEAP
- Thank you for support
- Dear Colleague letters



PROTECT LIHEAP

Your
agency's logo
and contact
information
here



The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps keep families safe and healthy through initiatives that make energy more affordable, such as:

- ◆ Home energy bills
- ◆ Energy crises
- ◆ Weatherization

LIHEAP helps people remain in their homes when the winter winds blow and the summer heat threatens the health and safety of those most vulnerable. LIHEAP also can address dangers arising from a home's faulty or non-functioning heating and cooling systems.

If you support LIHEAP, thank you! If you would like additional information on LIHEAP in our state, please contact the organization(s) listed on this postcard.

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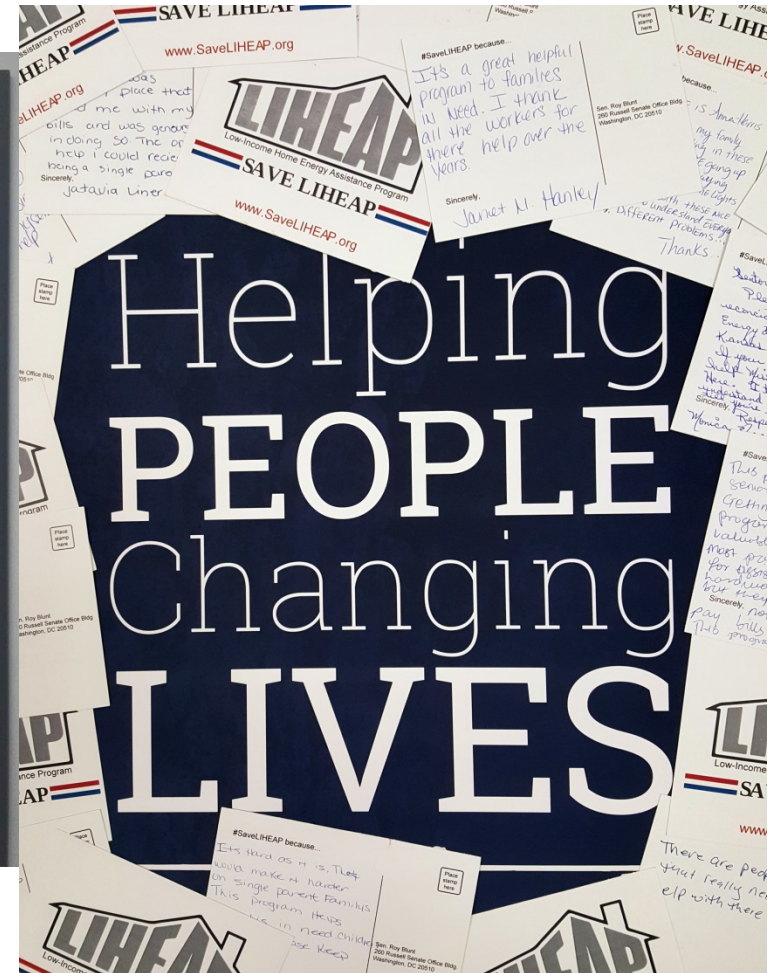
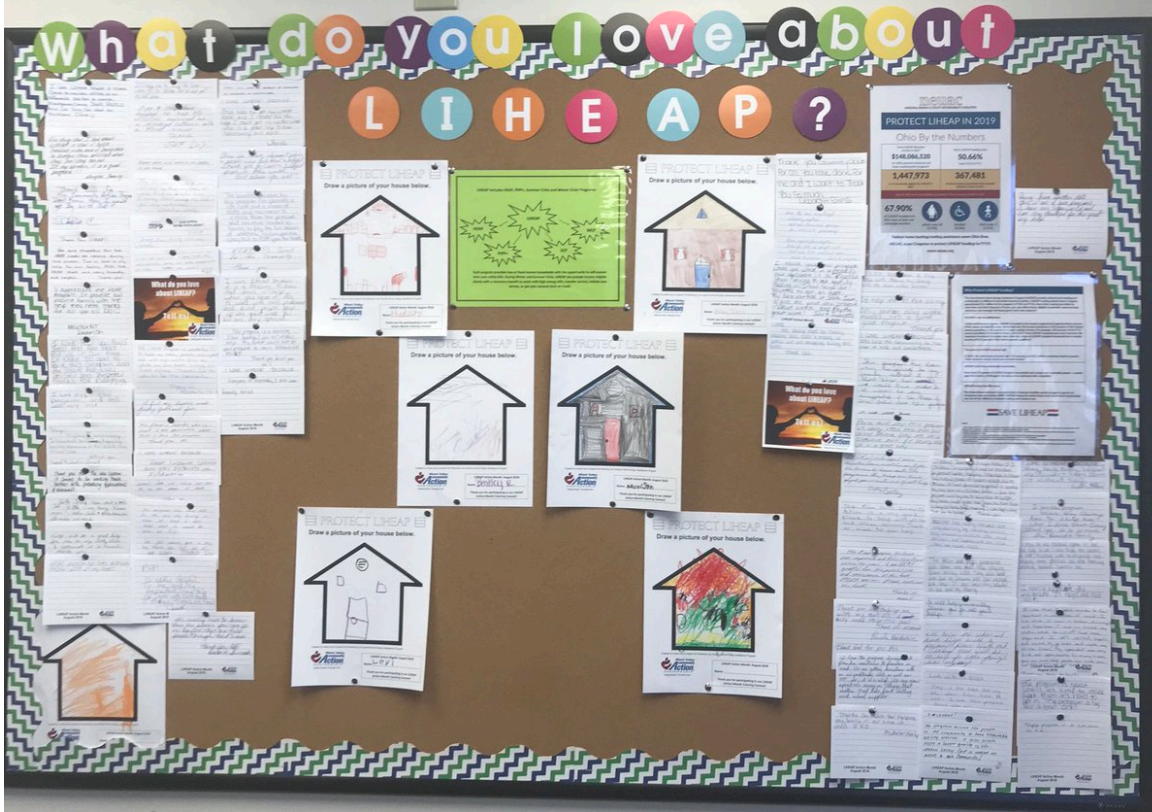
NATIONAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION

#ProtectLIHEAP because...

Place
Stamp
Here

Signed: (name, city, state, zip code)

LIHEAP Postcard Project





United We Stand: neuac 2020

Save the Date!

neuac 2020

"United We Stand"

Washington, D.C.

Omni Shoreham Hotel | June 29 - July 1, 2020



How do I get involved?



Join us. Tell your friends.

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NATIONAL ENERGY & UTILITY AFFORDABILITY COALITION

- NEUAC brings together partners from non-profits, CAAs, utilities, national organizations, trade associations, and government entities
 - Forum for Discussion
 - Advocacy for Utility Assistance
 - Problem-Solving



Social Media

- Twitter: @theNEUAC
#LIHEAP, #FuelFunds, #SLIHEAP,
#LIHEAPAction #FacesofLIHEAP,
#ProtectLIHEAP, #NEUAChighfive



- Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/neuacoalition>



What we do matters.



FACES OF LIHEAP

Ms. Hood

Red Bluff, California

"[Without LIHEAP], I would have had to choose my son's medication over heat. [With LIHEAP], I received firewood that I cannot afford as a single parent of 2 teenage boys. We were able to keep our home warm all winter."



These folks will thank you.



Questions?

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