

**REPORT OF THE
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Report on the Effectiveness of
Low Energy Assistance Programs**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 6

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
2003**



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

October 1, 2002

TO: The Honorable Mark R. Warner

and

The General Assembly of Virginia

The report contained herein is pursuant to §63.2-805 of the *Code of Virginia* (*Code*). The *Code* requires the Department of Social Services to submit an annual report about the effectiveness of low income energy assistance programs in meeting the needs of low income Virginians.

This report assesses the adequacy of energy assistance efforts targeted to low income households and discusses whether a duplication of services exists among the myriad energy assistance programs serving low income households.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ray C. Goodwin".

Ray C. Goodwin
Acting Commissioner

Report on the Effectiveness of Low Income Energy Assistance Programs

PREFACE

The *Code of Virginia (Code)* requires the Virginia Department of Social Services to report annually on the effectiveness of low income energy assistance programs in meeting the needs of low income Virginians on the Energy Assistance Program. The language requiring the report and the report's content can be found in § 63.2-805.C.5. of the *Code*.

This second year report contains data compiled in collaboration with the Department for the Aging; the Department of Housing and Community Development; Dominion Virginia Power; and American Electric Power. The Department is appreciative of the contributions to the report by these organizations.

Report on the Effectiveness of Low Income Energy Assistance Programs

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Report on the Effectiveness of Low Income Energy Assistance Programs

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report on the effectiveness of low income energy assistance programs in the Commonwealth assesses the adequacy of energy assistance efforts targeted to low income households and discusses whether a duplication of services exists among the myriad energy assistance programs serving low income households.

The confluence of utility deregulation, fluctuating residential energy costs, and the current recession in the economy create an uncertain environment for energy affordability in the Commonwealth. According to the 2000 Census, 254,551 households in Virginia lived below the federally defined poverty threshold and many more struggle to meet their monthly bills due to the high cost of housing in many communities. The federal Department of Health and Human Services estimates that 650,000 Virginians are eligible to receive benefits and services through the Low Income Energy Assistance Program. During the past year, federal energy assistance programs in the Commonwealth served approximately 125,000 households and spent slightly more than \$33 million.

A variety of energy assistance programs exist in Virginia to help low income households meet their heating and cooling needs. Sources of support for low income individuals include the Virginia Energy Assistance Program funded by the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); the Weatherization Assistance Program funded by the United States Department of Energy; and utility-based programs including EnergyShare, Fan Care, and the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program.

Although less than half of all Virginia households with incomes at or below the federally defined poverty threshold received assistance from the major energy assistance programs, the full extent of unmet need cannot be fully known by looking at the program utilization statistics. The ratio of households served to households eligible does not capture the adequacy of benefits delivered or the true number of households in need. For example, among those participating in the Virginia Energy Assistance Program, 75 percent spend in excess of 50 percent of their income on home energy. Given the finite resources and competing demands for housing and food, it is likely that this high percentage of a household's budget spent on energy costs places a low income family at risk for being able to meet other basic needs.

In order to better answer questions about unmet energy needs, a random sample survey of low income Virginians that explores the need for energy assistance, level of program utilization, and program effectiveness is currently being conducted by the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University through a contract with the Virginia Department of Social Services. The results from this survey will offer a new, rich source of data to further elucidate the issues discussed in this report.

Another important component of assessing the effectiveness of energy assistance programs in the Commonwealth is the degree to which program duplication exists. In examining the major state and utility-based programs, it is clear that these programs are not duplicative. Each program offers a discrete and complementary energy assistance benefit to low income Virginians. Additionally, a host of smaller, community and faith-based energy assistance programs operate throughout the state. These programs typically serve individuals from their local community, offering subsidies to help defray energy bills.

The degree to which these community-based programs duplicate the efforts of large state and utility sponsored programs is not known, and the extent to which multiple services are provided to the same household cannot be determined due to confidentiality and privacy restrictions on the sharing of client/customer level data. While some of these confidentiality barriers may be overcome among state agencies and not-for-profit providers, it is not clear that utility companies will have the ability to share customer information. Through a partnership with the statewide Information and Referral Network and deliberations with state agencies and utility companies, a strategy for maximizing the sharing of data is being pursued. The best source of information on program utilization by household will come from the aforementioned survey of low income Virginians that will ask respondents to identify all the sources of assistance received.

Clearly, there is a demand for energy assistance programs in the Commonwealth. The existing programs offer needed services and benefits to low income Virginians. While these major programs are not duplicative, the extent to which they meet the overall energy assistance needs is not fully known. Existing data from programs and the Census indicates that the majority of eligible households in Virginia do not receive any assistance.

Report on the Effectiveness of Low Income Energy Assistance Programs

STUDY MANDATE

Section 63.2-805 of the *Code of Virginia* states:

“5. Report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before October 1 of each year on the effectiveness of low-income energy assistance programs in meeting the needs of low-income Virginians. In preparing the annual report, the Department shall:

a. Conduct a survey biennially beginning in 2002 that shall collect information regarding the extent to which the Commonwealth’s efforts in assisting low-income Virginians are adequate and are not duplicative of similar services provided by utility services providers, charitable organizations and local governments;

b. Obtain information on energy programs in other states; and

c. Obtain necessary information from the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, and other agencies of the Commonwealth, as well as any nonstate programs that elect to participate in the biennial survey and to compile the required annual report. The Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, and other agencies of the Commonwealth, as well as any nonstate programs that elect to participate in the Home Energy Assistance Program, shall provide the necessary information to the Department.

The Department’s annual reporting requirement shall cease October 1, 2007.

See Appendix I for a copy of Section 63.2-805.

BACKGROUND

The 1999 Virginia General Assembly established the Legislative Transition Task Force through the Virginia Electric Utility Restructuring Act, Chapter 23 of Title 56 of the *Code of Virginia*. The Task Force was formed to work collaboratively with the State Corporation Commission for the phase-in of retail energy competition within the Commonwealth. Membership of the Task Force includes ten members of the General Assembly, six from the House of Delegates and four from the Senate. A Consumer Advisory Board was also created to assist the Legislative Transition Task Force in fulfilling its charge.

One of the recommendations of the Consumer Advisory Board to the Task Force

was to study all aspects of low income household energy assistance programs in the Commonwealth. This recommendation led to §63.1-339 of the *Code of Virginia* that requires the Virginia Department of Social Services to prepare an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly about the effectiveness of low income energy assistance programs in meeting the needs of low income Virginians on or before October 1 of each year.

The 2002 General Assembly amended §63.1-339 of the *Code of Virginia* with the passage of House Bill 747 and created the Home Energy Assistance Program. The amendment requires the Department of Social Services to conduct a biennial survey to collect information about the extent to which the Commonwealth's efforts in assisting low income Virginians are adequate and are not duplicative of similar services provided by utility services providers, charitable organizations and local government; obtain information on energy programs in other states; and obtain necessary information from other related state agencies as well as any non-state programs that elect to participate in the Home Energy Assistance Program. Title 63.1 of the *Code of Virginia* was recodified effective October 1, 2002 and §63.1-339 is now §63.2-805.

The following report provides an overview of the major low income energy assistance programs operating in the Commonwealth, discusses the effectiveness of these programs in meeting the energy needs of low income households, and provides a summary of energy assistance programs in other states.

OVERVIEW OF LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The confluence of utility deregulation, fluctuating residential energy costs, and the current recessionary economy create an uncertain environment for energy affordability in the Commonwealth. Fortunately, a variety of energy assistance programs exist in Virginia to help low income households meet their heating and cooling needs. Sources of support for low income individuals include the Virginia Energy Assistance Program funded by the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); the Weatherization Assistance Program funded by multiple state and federal sources; utility-based programs including EnergyShare, Fan Care, and the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program; and the newly created Home Energy Assistance Program. Programs operated by the Commonwealth, including the Energy Assistance Program, provide assistance statewide while the programs sponsored by utility companies provide assistance only in their service area.

The primary source of home energy assistance in Virginia is the Energy Assistance Program (EAP), which provides heating and cooling subsidies as well as crisis intervention subsidies. The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) receives nearly \$33 million from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the LIHEAP block grant to provide home energy assistance. No state match is required to draw down these funds. Fifteen percent of the funds are allotted to

the Department of Housing and Community Development to administer the Weatherization component of the Virginia Energy Assistance Program. VDSS transfers \$100,000 to the Department for the Aging to operate a summer Cooling Program and uses the balance to operate the EAP.

Local departments of social services administer the Energy Assistance Program by taking applications for assistance and determining eligibility for individuals in their community. Eligibility for the EAP is based on three factors: residence, a heating or cooling expense or need, and income at or below 130 percent of the federally determined poverty level. Benefit amounts are based on energy burden (cost of energy in relation to income), household size, climate zone, income, fuel type and the presence of a vulnerable person (age 60 or older, disabled, or under age six) in the home. In most cases, energy subsidies are paid directly to contracted providers that are authorized to provide assistance to households in their service area.

A summary of utilization, expenditures, and key reasons for denial among the public and private sector programs for State Fiscal Year 2002 follows. Data collected differs among programs as indicated by the presence of "N/A" in some columns to represent a data element that is not collected.

EAP - Fuel Assistance provides assistance to purchase home heating fuel. Approximately 60 percent of the VDSS portion of the LIHEAP grant is used for fuel assistance benefits. All eligible applicant households are assigned a benefit amount. The average benefit amount is \$214. The maximum benefit is \$323.

Approved Households with Income less than 100% Poverty	Approved Households with Income between 100 – 130% Poverty	Total Households Approved for Service	Total Expenditure	Select Reasons for Denial		
				Excess Income	Need Exceeds Maximum Benefit	Funds Depleted
74,013	17,405	91,418	\$19,487,200	6,877	N/A	N/A

EAP - Crisis Assistance meets a household's emergency heating need. Types of assistance include: one-time heat security deposit; portable space heater for temporary use; purchase of home heating fuel; payment of heat utility bill; payment for emergency shelter; and buying or repairing heating equipment. The average benefit amount for crisis assistance is \$361. The maximum benefit is \$1,700.

Approved Households with Income less than 100% Poverty	Approved Households with Income between 100 - 130% Poverty	Total Households Approved for Service	Total Expenditure	Select Reason Cases Denied		
				Excess Income	Need Exceeds Maximum Benefit	Funds Depleted
6,220	1,294	7,514	\$2,711,048	575	808	N/A

EAP - Cooling Assistance provides purchase or repair of cooling equipment and/or payment for electricity to operate cooling equipment. Local agencies denied the applications of 112 eligible households because available funds had been expended. To assist those households would have required an additional \$29,874. The average benefit amount for cooling assistance is \$350 and the maximum benefit is \$950.

Approved Households with Income less than 100% Poverty	Approved Households with Income between 100 - 130% Poverty	Total Households Approved for Service	Total Expenditure	Select Reason Cases Denied		
				Excess Income	Need Exceeds Maximum Benefit	Funds Depleted
13,244	2,507	15,751	\$3,356,176	821	1,034	112

EAP - Weatherization Assistance applies energy efficiency measures to the housing structure. The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) administers this component with 15 percent of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program block grant.

Households Served with Income less than 100% Poverty	Households Served with Income between 100 - 150% Poverty	Total Households Served	Total Expenditure	Select Reason Cases Denied		
				Excess Income	Need Exceeds Maximum Benefit	Funds Depleted
889	577	1,466	\$5,207,357	N/A	N/A	N/A

Neighbor-To-Neighbor Program provides assistance in 33 localities for American Electric Power Company (AEP) customers to pay their winter electric bills. AEP matches customer donations up to a maximum amount of \$37,500.

Households Served with Income less than 100% Poverty	Households Served with Income between 100 - 150% Poverty	Total Households Served	Total Expenditure	Select Reason Cases Denied		
				Excess Income	Need Exceeds Maximum Benefit	Funds Depleted
822	456	1,278	\$114,767	23	1	1

EnergyShare Program provides assistance with heating costs for any fuel type to residents in Virginia Dominion Power's 67-locality service area. Customer contributions are matched by the company up to \$50,000.

Households with Income less than 100% Poverty	Households with Income between 100 - 150% Poverty	Total Households Served	Total Expenditure	Select Reason Cases Denied		
				Excess Income	Need Exceeds Maximum Benefit	Funds Depleted
N/A	N/A	4,528	\$925,399	None	N/A	444

Weatherization Assistance Program installs cost-effective energy efficiency measures to decrease home energy consumption. The Department of Housing and Community Development administers the program.

Households with Income less than 100% Poverty	Households with Income between 100 - 150% Poverty	Total Households Served	Total Expenditure	Select Reason Cases Denied		
				Excess Income	Need Exceeds Maximum Benefit	Funds Depleted
N/A	N/A	316	\$2,000,328	N/A	N/A	N/A

Summer Cooling Assistance is administered by the Department of Aging (VDA) using LIHEAP funds to purchase and repair air conditioners and pay electric bills for households of elderly citizens, age 60 and older, who have income at or below 150 percent of poverty.

Households Served with Income less than 100% Poverty	Households Served with Income between 100 - 150% Poverty	Total Households Served	Total Expenditure	Select Reason Cases Denied		
				Excess Income	Need Exceeds Maximum Benefit	Funds Depleted
206	411	617	\$100,000	13	None	56

Fan Care Program purchases fans for the elderly. The Virginia Department for Aging administers this program with \$27,500 provided by Dominion Virginia Power.

Households Served with Income less than 100% Poverty	Households Served with Income between 100 - 150% Poverty	Total Households Served	Total Expenditures	Select Reason Cases Denied		
				Excess Income	Need Exceeds Maximum Benefit	Funds Depleted
1,394	709	2,103	\$24,765	8	None	35

In addition to these major energy assistance programs, a host of small community and faith-based programs exist throughout the Commonwealth. The most accurate source of information about these programs is the Virginia Information and Referral System (I & R). This network of information and referral agencies collects information about social service providers throughout the state for the purposes of referring individuals to these services. According to I & R, there are an estimated 242 community and faith-based programs statewide that serve low income individuals to assist them in meeting their energy needs. Data about the extent of these forms of assistance is not captured by the I & R Network. The annual survey of low income Virginians currently being conducted will better capture the extent to which these services address the energy needs of low income Virginians.

EFFECTIVENESS OF ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

For the purposes of this report, the effectiveness of Virginia's energy assistance programs is measured by the percentage of eligible applicants served, the level to

which services and benefits meet the needs of households, and the degree to which programs are duplicative. The data used for this analysis is derived from program administrative data and Census data. For future reports, these issues will be further elucidated using data from a random sample survey of low income Virginians that will ask specific questions about unmet energy needs, program utilization, and program adequacy. The first survey was conducted in September 2002; however, the data were not available in time for the writing of this report.

Using the LIHEAP eligibility criteria as a proxy for eligibility across all the Commonwealth's low income energy assistance programs, it is clear that the vast majority of low income households in Virginia receive no assistance to help them meet their energy needs. The programs outlined in this report offered benefits and services to approximately 125,000 low income Virginia households in the past year. These programs provide assistance to eligible households with income up to 150 percent of the federally defined poverty threshold. Appendix II delineates these income levels by family size.

According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Virginia has 654,664 households eligible for LIHEAP, which allows states to provide services to households with incomes up to 150 percent of poverty or 60 percent of the state median income (see Appendix III). Using this figure as a proxy for eligible households for low income energy assistance programs, less than 20 percent of households eligible for assistance received services or subsidies. One contributing factor to low utilization rates for energy programs may be the seasonal nature of the programs since most subsidies are only available during a defined period of time. Many of those in need may be seeking assistance at times when no program is available. An indicator of this trend may be the number of "off season" calls placed to Virginia's Information and Referral Services system. Last year this system received 4,412 inquiries for energy assistance with many calls made in months when no assistance was available.

In addition to those eligible households that do not apply for assistance, a significant number of individuals apply for assistance and do not meet the eligibility criteria, indicating another population of households with unmet needs. Among the LIHEAP funded programs, 13,406 households applied and were denied fuel assistance; 3,202 households applied and were denied crisis assistance; and 6,702 households applied and were denied cooling assistance.

Given the fixed amount of resources available for this program, an increase in utilization would result in a decrease in average benefit amount, jeopardizing the adequacy of benefits to meet household needs.

The capacity of benefits and services to meet the demands of low income households is unclear. Low income households juggle competing demands for basic needs including housing, food, medicine, and heat/cooling. The federal Low income Home Energy Assistance Program defines energy burden as the ratio of energy cost to

income. The Virginia Energy Assistance Program (EAP) captures information about energy burden through its application process.

The following table shows the energy burden for participants receiving a subsidy to pay their heat through the Energy Assistance Program. As indicated by the data, more than a third of EAP recipients have an energy burden that equals or exceeds their income. More than 5,000 households have either no income or annual income of less than \$1,000.

Energy Burden by Income for Virginia’s EAP– Fuel Assistance Recipients

Percent of Household Income Spent on Energy

Annual Household Income	100 - 95%	94 - 90%	89 - 80%	79 - 70%	69 - 60%	59 - 50%	49 - 40%	39 - 30%	29 - 20%	19 - 0%
Under \$1000	5081									
\$1000 - 1999	950									
\$2000 - 2999	1695									
\$3000 - 3999	2768	36	86	6						
\$4000 - 4999	1809	251	11	106	46	1				
\$5000 - 5999	1719	8	796	639	131	203	9			
\$6000 - 6999	11463	383	214	9426	1584	2151	285	1		
\$7000 - 7999	2268	285	674	371	1418	1363	474	7		
\$8000 - 8999	1408	354	704	862	284	3116	159	385		
\$9000 - 9999	630	495	634	745	1051	240	2720	683	22	
\$10000 - 10999	283		450	554	446	555	1858	334	22	
\$11000 - 11999	76	146	66	411	421	538	509	986	246	
\$12000 - 12999			265	225	584	604	469	1811	443	
\$13000 - 13999			89	100	419	395	498	1370	250	
\$14000 - 14999				159	167	533	566	1206	219	8
\$15000 plus				53	244	645	1439	2022	4570	1089
Totals	30,150	1,958	3,989	13,657	6,795	10,344	8,986	8,805	5,772	1,097

According to the statistics gathered by the United States Energy Administration, households earning less than \$10,000 annually spend 18.0 percent of their earnings on energy compared to households earning \$50,000 or more who spend only 2.3 percent of their annual earnings on energy. Data in the preceding table show that more than a third of households receiving heating assistance spend at least 95 percent of their income on energy and 73 percent of participants spend at least half of their income on energy costs. With an average subsidy of \$214, the adequacy of this amount to assist households in meeting their energy demands while maintaining adequate resources to meet other vital needs is doubtful.

Although the energy burden data from this program demonstrate the tremendous energy burden among low income households, the full extent of unmet need – even after receiving assistance – cannot be known without further analysis. The aforementioned low income household survey will provide a more comprehensive view of the energy burden and unmet energy needs among low income households throughout the Commonwealth. The survey will ask participants to identify all sources

of energy assistance, the total dollar amount of those services, and their ability to meet their energy needs after services and benefits have been received.

Another important component in assessing the effectiveness of energy assistance programs in the Commonwealth is the degree to which program duplication exists. In examining the major state and utility-based programs, it is clear that little known duplication of services exists. Each program offers a discrete and complementary energy assistance benefit to low income Virginians. The major programs funded by the LIHEAP block grant include the EAP – Fuel program; EAP – Crisis program; EAP – Cooling program; and the Weatherization Program. The three Energy Assistance Programs provide subsidies to offset the costs of heat and cooling or to avoid an energy crisis. The Weatherization Program serves a very different purpose in helping households make their homes more energy efficient, reducing their future costs for energy. The Summer Cooling Program operated by the Virginia Department for Aging provides subsidies to individuals over the age of 60 to pay electric bills or purchase/repair air conditioners. This program serves relatively few individuals (617); however, it is possible that some duplication of services may exist between this program and the EAP - Cooling program. The Departments for the Aging and Social Services are pursuing a data sharing agreement to determine the extent to which duplication may exist.

An examination of the major utility-sponsored programs reveals a possibility that a duplication of services may be provided by the EnergyShare Program operated by Virginia Dominion Power in 67 localities and the EAP program. The EnergyShare program provided subsidies to approximately 4,500 households in the past year, and it is possible that those households also received energy assistance through the EAP program. Although a duplication of services cannot be determined by the Department of Social Services because of privacy concerns with the release of customer data, Virginia Dominion Power has the information to conduct this analysis and prevent a duplication of services because the EAP program pays Virginia Dominion Power (and other utilities) directly on behalf of their customers who are eligible for the EAP program.

The other major utility-sponsored program is Neighbor-to-Neighbor, sponsored by American Electric Power Company. This program served 1,278 individuals in 33 localities last year and is administered by the Department of Social Services, preventing a duplication of services. The Department of Social Services uses the funds from Neighbor-to-Neighbor to supplement the EAP program. Funds from the Neighbor-to-Neighbor are only used for households when their EAP subsidy has been exhausted.

While some low income households may receive assistance from multiple programs, it is unlikely that assistance is duplicated by another program. The various programs operate at different times, target different groups within the low income population, and have specific service areas. The following chart shows the application

period for each of the programs, their service area, type of assistance provided and their target group.

Program	Application Period	Service Area	Assistance Provided	Target Group
EAP – Fuel	Second Tuesday in October to Second Friday in November	Statewide	Pay for a delivery of fuel or past fuel bill or utility for heating	All income eligible households
EAP - Crisis	November 1 to March 15	Statewide	Equipment, shelter, security deposit, etc	Vulnerable households
EAP – Crisis Fuel	January 1 to March 15	Statewide	Secure a fuel delivery or maintain heat utility	All income eligible households
EAP - Weatherization	Year round	Statewide	Energy efficiency measures	All income eligible households
Neighbor-to-Neighbor	January 1 to February 28	33 localities in American Electric's service area	Pay past due AEP electric bill once EAP benefits exhausted	AEP customers only
EnergyShare	December 15 to May 31	67 localities in Dominion Virginia Power service area	Secure a fuel delivery or maintain heat utility	Elderly, ill, unemployed, in crisis
Weatherization	Year round	Statewide	Energy efficiency measures	All income eligible households
EAP – Cooling	June 15 to August 15	Statewide	Buy & repair fans or air conditioners, pay electric bill or security deposit	Vulnerable households
Fan Care	June through September	Statewide	Purchase fans	Age 60 and over
Summer Cooling	June through September	Statewide	Buy or repair conditioners and pay electric bill	Age 60 and over

The Energy Assistance Program tracks whether multiple types of assistance are requested within the Crisis and Cooling components of the program and whether funds from other programs are needed to alleviate an emergency situation. EAP only provides Crisis Assistance when the available benefit amount will prevent or alleviate a problem. Assistance can be provided in conjunction with funds from other programs. The following table reflects utilization in the Crisis and Cooling components.

Program	Households Served	Multi Use of EAP Assistance	Multi Program Use	Other Program Funds
EAP - Crisis	7,175	970	862	\$182,071
EAP - Cooling	15,035	613	233	\$31,012

Additionally, a host of smaller, community and faith-based energy assistance programs operate throughout the state. These programs typically serve individuals from their local community, offering subsidies to help defray energy bills. The degree to which these community-based programs duplicate the efforts of large state and utility sponsored programs is not known, and the extent to which multiple services are provided to the same household cannot be determined due to confidentiality and privacy restrictions on the sharing of client/customer level data. While some of these confidentiality barriers may be overcome between state agencies and not-for-profit providers, it is not clear that utility companies will have the ability to share customer information. Through a partnership with the statewide Information and Referral Network and deliberations with state agencies and utility companies, a strategy for maximizing the sharing of data is being pursued. The best source of information on program utilization by household will come from the aforementioned survey of low income Virginians, which will ask respondents to identify all the sources of assistance received.

The Virginia Home Energy Assistance Program is authorized under §63.2-805 of the *Code of Virginia*. One of the purposes of the program is to establish a fund to provide a financial resource for low income families to meet their energy needs. The Department of Social Services is the administering entity for the program. To date, no funds have been credited to the program.

SURVEY OF OTHER STATE ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The legislative mandate also requires that information on energy programs in other states be obtained for use in preparing this report. A survey of states revealed a multitude of non-federal low income energy assistance programs. All states administer the federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance and Weatherization Programs. Several states also administer state-funded energy programs. Appendix IV identifies states that fund supplemental or complementary energy programs. Complementary energy assistance programs are funded by utilities or charitable organizations in most states. Utility-funded programs provide rate discounts, fee or usage waivers, as well as weatherization measures. Charitable programs are frequently sponsored by a utility but are funded through donations. Appendix V provides a summary of utility-funded programs by state.

CONCLUSION

Clearly, there is a demand for energy assistance programs in the Commonwealth. The existing programs offer needed services and benefits to low income Virginians. While these major programs are not likely to be duplicative, the extent to which they meet the overall energy assistance needs is not fully known. Existing data from programs and the Census indicates that the majority of eligible households in Virginia do not receive any assistance. As Virginia continues its path toward energy deregulation, the data from the annual survey of low income households currently being conducted will provide an important benchmark to measure the possible impact of deregulation on low income Virginians. In addition, the survey will answer

important questions regarding the duplication of services, the adequacy of benefits, and the extent of unmet need in the Commonwealth that cannot be answered through existing data sources.

Code of Virginia

§ 63.2-805. (Effective October 1, 2002) Home Energy Assistance Program; report; survey.

A. The General Assembly declares that it is the policy of this Commonwealth to support the efforts of public agencies, private utility service providers, and charitable and community groups seeking to assist low-income Virginians in meeting their residential energy needs. To this end, the Department is designated as the state agency responsible for coordinating state efforts in this regard.

B. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Home Energy Assistance Fund, hereinafter the "Fund." Moneys in the Fund shall be used to:

1. Supplement the assistance provided through the Department's administration of the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program Block Grant; and
2. Assist the Commonwealth in maximizing the amount of federal funds available under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and the Weatherization Assistance Program by providing funds to comply with fund - matching requirements, and by means of leveraging in accordance with the rules set by the Home Energy Assistance Program. The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. The Fund shall consist of donations and contributions to the Fund and such moneys as shall be appropriated by the General Assembly. Interest earned on money in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purposes set forth in this section. The State Treasurer shall make expenditures and disbursements from the Fund on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Commissioner. Up to twelve percent of the Fund may be used to pay the Department's expenses in administering the Home Energy Assistance Program.

C. The Department shall establish and operate the Home Energy Assistance Program. In administering the Home Energy Assistance Program, it shall be the responsibility of the Department to:

1. Administer distributions from the Fund;
2. Lead and facilitate meetings with the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, and other agencies of the Commonwealth, as well as any nonstate programs that elect to participate in the Home Energy Assistance Program, for the purpose of sharing information directed at alleviating the seasonal energy needs of low-income Virginians, including needs for weatherization assistance services;
3. Collect and analyze data regarding the amounts of energy assistance provided through the Department, categorized by fuel type in order to identify the unmet need for energy assistance in the Commonwealth;
4. Develop and maintain a statewide list of available private and governmental resources for low-income Virginians in need of energy assistance; and
5. Report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before October 1 of each year on the effectiveness of low-income energy assistance programs in meeting

the needs of low-income Virginians. In preparing the annual report, the Department shall:

- a. Conduct a survey biennially beginning in 2002 that shall collect information regarding the extent to which the Commonwealth's efforts in assisting low-income Virginians are adequate and are not duplicative of similar services provided by utility services providers, charitable organizations and local governments;
- b. Obtain information on energy programs in other states; and
- c. Obtain necessary information from the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, and other agencies of the Commonwealth, as well as any nonstate programs that elect to participate in the Home Energy Assistance Program, to complete the biennial survey and to compile the required annual report. The Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, and other agencies of the Commonwealth, as well as any nonstate programs that elect to participate in the Home Energy Assistance Program, shall provide the necessary information to the Department. The Department's annual reporting requirement shall cease October 1, 2007.

The Department is authorized to assume responsibility for administering all or any portion of any private, voluntary low-income energy assistance program upon the application of the administrator thereof, on such terms as the Department and such administrator shall agree and in accordance with applicable law and regulations. If the Department assumes administrative responsibility for administering such a voluntary program, it is authorized to receive funds collected through such voluntary program and distribute them through the Fund.

D. Local departments may, to the extent that funds are available, promote interagency cooperation at the local level by providing technical assistance, data collection and service delivery.

E. Subject to Board regulations and to the availability of state or private funds for low-income households in need of energy assistance, the Department is authorized to:

- 1. Receive state and private funds for such services; and
- 2. Disburse funds to state agencies, and vendors of energy services, to provide energy assistance programs for low-income households.

F. Actions of the Department relating to the review, allocation and awarding of benefits and grants shall be exempt from the provisions of Article 3 (§ 2.2-4018 et seq.) and Article 4 (§ 2.2-4024 et seq.) of Chapter 40 of the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.).

G. No employee or former employee of the Department shall divulge any information acquired by him in the performance of his duties with respect to the income or assistance eligibility of any individual or household obtained in the course of administering the Home Energy Assistance Program, except in accordance with proper judicial order. The provisions of this section shall not apply to (i) acts performed or words spoken or published in the line of duty under law; (ii) inquiries and investigations to obtain information as to the implementation of this chapter by a duly constituted committee of the General Assembly, or when such inquiry or investigation is relevant to its study, provided that any such information shall be privileged; or (iii) the publication of statistics so classified as to prevent the identification of any individual or household.

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY GUIDANCE

2002 ANNUAL FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

For All States (Except Alaska and Hawaii) and for the District of Columbia

Size of Family Unit	100 Percent of Poverty	110 Percent of Poverty	130 Percent of Poverty	150 Percent of Poverty
1	\$8,860	\$9,746	\$11,518	\$13,290
2	\$11,940	\$13,134	\$15,522	\$17,910
3	\$15,020	\$16,522	\$19,526	\$22,530
4	\$18,100	\$19,910	\$23,530	\$27,150
5	\$21,180	\$23,298	\$27,534	\$31,770
6	\$24,260	\$26,686	\$31,538	\$36,390
7	\$27,340	\$30,074	\$35,542	\$41,010
8	\$30,420	\$ 33,462	\$39,546	\$45,630

VIRGINIA ESTIMATED MEDIAN INCOME FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2003

Size of Family Unit	100 Percent of Median	60 Percent of Median
1	\$35,388	\$21,233
2	\$46,277	\$27,766
3	\$57,165	\$34,299
4	\$68,054	\$40,832
5	\$78,943	\$47,366
6	\$89,831	\$53,899
7	\$91,873	\$55,123
8	\$93,915	\$56,348

Federal law requires that income criteria for use of Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds must be at least 110 percent of the federal poverty guidelines but no more than 150 percent of poverty or 60 percent of the State's median income. Virginia uses eligibility criteria of 130 percent of poverty.

LIHEAP INCOME ELIGIBILITY ESTIMATES¹
FOR VIRGINIA
Federal Fiscal year (FFY) 1999

Estimates of Federal and State LIHEAP Eligible Household
 by Vulnerable Group, FFY 1999

Vulnerable Group	Number of LIHEAP Eligible Households (Federal Maximum Standard)²	Number of LIHEAP Eligible Households (State Maximum Standard)
All	654,664	368,695
Elderly	285,507	152,895
Disabled	140,001	103,316
Young Child	114,875	60,975

Estimates of Federal and State LIHEAP Eligible Household
 by Poverty Level, FFY 1999

Vulnerable Group	Number of LIHEAP Eligible Households (Federal Maximum Standard)²	Number of LIHEAP Eligible Households (State Maximum Standard)
All	654,664	368,695
<=100%	254,551	254,550
101% - 125%	100,540	100,540
126% - 150%	96,178	13,605

¹ An average of 1998, 1999, and 2000 March Current Population Survey data are used to create these estimates. Estimates are subject to sampling error.

² The greater of 60 percent of state median income or 150 percent of poverty using poverty guidelines published by HHS. Sixty percent of State median income is the greater of the two.

STATE/LOCAL FUNDED ENERGY PROGRAMS

STATE	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
Alabama	Neighbors Helping Neighbors	Weatherization
Alaska	Power Cost Equalization Program	Assist rural customers to equalize the power cost per kilowatt-hour
Arizona	None	
Arkansas	None	
California	None	
Colorado	Heat Rebates	Tax rebates for home heating payments to income-eligible residents at least 65 years old, surviving spouses at least 58 years old, or to those totally disabled regardless of age.
Connecticut	State Appropriated Fuel Assistance Program (SAFA).	Assistance to elderly and/or disabled households with incomes between 151-200% of poverty.
Delaware	None	
District of Columbia	None	
Florida	Partnership Low income Emergency Home Repair Program	Weatherization. Emergency home repairs and energy-related home repairs.
Georgia	None	
Hawaii	Residential Rehabilitation	Low interest loans for homeowners.
Idaho	None	
Illinois	Supplemental Low income Energy Assistance Fund	Low income bill payment and weatherization.
Indiana	Poor Relief	Local choice about how spent.
Iowa	None	
Kansas	None	
Kentucky	Preventive Assistance Program WARM	Energy payment of up to \$300 per family if payment would prevent removal of a child from the family or assist in reuniting the child with the family. Free weatherization and energy conservation services
Louisiana	None	
Maine	General Assistance	Energy emergencies.

STATE	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
Maryland	Electric Universal Service Program	Assist with electric bill; retire certain old bills, weatherization services.
	Universal Service Protection Program (USPP)	Reduces and evens out monthly utility payments by subtracting the amount of the LIHEAP benefit from a customer's yearly bill and dividing the remainder by twelve months. Those who keep on payment plans are eligible for credits from some utilities.
	Transitional Emergency, Medical, and Housing Assistance (TEMHA) 11	Low income households of adult disabled persons are paid monthly with TEMHA 11 funds, of which \$40 is designated for energy assistance.
	Rebate Program	Local energy tax dollars are given in a rebate to low income MEAP households in two counties.
Massachusetts	None	
Michigan	Low income Energy Efficiency (LIEE)	\$27.4 million authorized by electric restructuring legislation for LIHEAP and non-profit energy programs
Minnesota	Minnesota Department of Human Services	Emergency crisis assistance to homes that would otherwise be without heat.
Mississippi	None	
Missouri	None	
Montana	None	
Nebraska	None	
Nevada	Supplement	Electric and gas Universal Energy Charge imposed to supplement LIHEAP; and Weatherization.
New Hampshire	None	
New Jersey	Lifeline Assistance Program	Provides a credit on electric or natural gas bills of \$225 yearly to disabled and senior homeowners and tenants. (\$76 million)
	Rate Affordability Program	A one-time credit of \$200 for payment of electric and natural gas bills. (\$15 million)
	Comfort Partners	Provides direct installation of cost effective energy efficiency measures, energy education and counseling and arrearage forgiveness for participants who agree to payment plans. (\$15.2 million)
New Mexico	None	
New York	Home Energy Allowance	Utility sales tax exemption and payment of utility arrears for public assistance clients
North Carolina	None	

STATE	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
North Dakota	None	
Ohio	Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP)	Customers allowed to pay 15% or less of income on the natural gas or electric bill regardless of bill amount.
	Energy Credit Program	A one-time cash payment or utility credit to elderly or disabled households to help pay winter heating costs.
	Targeted Energy Efficiency (TEE)	Reduce electric consumption by households that participate in (PIPP).
Oklahoma	None	
Oregon	Bill Assistance	\$10 million from Public Purpose Charge per year for electric bill assistance.
	Energy Efficiency	Weatherization
Pennsylvania	Customer Assistance Programs (CAPs)	Percentage of bill plan or a percentage of income payment plans. Includes utility arrearage forgiveness; flat rate discounts or bill credits. (\$78.4 million)
	Low income Usage Reduction Program (LIURP)	Education on energy savings, regular bill payment behavior and application assistance. (\$22.4 million)
Rhode Island	None	
South Carolina	None	
South Dakota	None	
Tennessee	None	
Texas	Lite-Up Texas	10 percent reduction of utility rates financed through the System Benefit Fund.
	Energy Efficiency	Efficiency measures and compact fluorescent light bulb lease-purchase programs, refrigerator and air-conditioner lease-purchase programs, and water-flow restrictors (low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators) provided free of charge.
Utah	None	
Vermont	General Assistance	Emergency help to meet basic needs, including fuel and utilities.
	Weatherization Trust Fund	Supplements the Weatherization Assistance Program with \$3 million annually from a 0.5 percent gross receipts tax on regulated utilities and all fuels except wood.
Virginia	Tax Waiver	Waiver of state sales tax on purchases made with LIHEAP funds. (\$400,000)
	Home Energy Assistance Program	Will provide financial assistance to low income families

STATE	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
Washington	Energy Matchmaker	Local, utility and other funds are matched to weatherize homes.
West Virginia	None	
Wisconsin	LIHEAP Supplement	Public Benefits Fund allows the LIHEAP program to pay a non-heating electric benefit along with the regular LIHEAP heating benefit.
	General Assistance	Cost of home heating provided to households without assets or means of support.
	Tax Suspension	State and local sales taxes are suspended for LIHEAP households for the costs of home heating to direct additional funds to those households to relieve the costs of home heating.
	Housing Cost Reduction Initiative Utility Payment Program	Utility arrearages are paid for households whose housing cost is more than 35 percent of their total income and who have exhausted other sources of assistance.
Wyoming	None	

UTILITY FUNDED ENERGY PROGRAMS

STATE	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
Alabama	Low income Rate Assistance	Major utilities provide a monthly service charge waiver.
Alaska	HomeSense	Free energy audit for Weatherization Program recipients.
Arizona	Low income Rate Assistance	Rate discounts based on usage or a medical life support rate.
Arkansas	Energy Arkansas	Exempt sales tax on 500 kilowatts each month.
	Empire's Action to Support the Elderly (EASE)	Waiver of late fee and security deposits for elderly and disabled.
California	California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE)	Rate discounts and surcharge exemptions.
	Low income Energy Efficiency Program	Free weatherization services including, but not limited to, attic insulation, weatherstripping, caulking, low-flow showerheads, electric water heater blankets, and energy education; also, as available, refrigerator replacement, water heaters, air conditioners, and compact fluorescent light bulbs.
Colorado	Affordable Payment Pilot Program	Discount on timely full bill payments and arrearage reduction.
	Energy Savings Partnership Program	No cost energy efficiency services such as energy audit, attic, wall and crawlspace insulation, air leakage reduction, appliance safety inspections, forced air efficiency assessment, high efficiency lighting surveys and other safety inspections.

STATE	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
Connecticut	Rate Assistance Matching Payment Program Low income Weatherization Residential Assistance Program (WRAP) UI HELPS	All gas public service companies are required by statute to operate an arrearage forgiveness program for gas heating customers. Arrearages are forgiven if customer makes regular payments. Electric utilities have voluntary arrearage forgiveness budget plans. An amount equal to all payments including LIHEAP, up to zero balance is deducted from the bill for LIHEAP recipients complying with payment arrangements. Energy efficient weatherization funded by a systems benefit charge. Energy efficient weatherization funded by a systems benefit charge.
Delaware	None	
District of Columbia	Residential Aid Discount (RAD) Residential Essential Service (RES)	All-electric homes receive an electric bill discount of up to \$20 a month, up to \$240 a year. Households that use electricity as a secondary source of heat can get a discount of \$12 a month for the five summer months and \$6 a month for the remaining seven months, up to \$102 a year. Discount gas rates during the winter months based on household size and income level
Florida	Senior Citizen's/Disabled American Veteran's Discount Home Energy Fix-Up Program Weather Care	Discount to veterans, age 62 or older or totally or permanently disabled with income less than \$16,104 per year per household. Attic insulation, window caulking, door weather-stripping, installation of water flow restrictors, water heater and hot water pipe insulation, repair of minor duct leaks and water leaks, and minor electrical safety repairs Free home improvements to low income citizens age 60 and older.
Georgia	Low income Rate Assistance	Waiver of utility service charge for homeowners over age 65 earning less than \$10,000 per year.
Hawaii	None	
Idaho	Low income Energy Efficiency	Weatherization (insulation and air sealing) or heating system improvements.

STATE	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
Illinois	Senior Citizen Discount Rate	10% discount for customers age 62 or older with a total household income no greater than 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
Indiana	Deferred Late Payment Charge Penalty Free Senior Citizen Program Cinergy PSI	Eliminate late payment charges for age 60 or older if balance paid before the next billing date. No late charge for elderly or disabled SSA recipients. Energy saving installations and energy education at no cost to federal program eligibles.
Iowa	Baseload Energy Efficiency Program (BEEP) MidAmerican Energy	10% bill reduction in anticipation of lower use from energy efficiency measures. One twelfth of the annual LIHEAP benefit is applied to bill and the customer is required to pay 4% of arrearages for 24 months. Home improvements to low income customer homes.
Kansas	None	
Kentucky	Customer Assistance Program All Season Assurance Plan WeCare Piggyback	Fixed percentage gas payment (5 - 7%, depending on poverty level) of income. Arrearages are forgiven after 3 years (1/36 forgiven each month) if payments are kept current. Bill payment subsidy averaging \$600 per household plus an arrearage subsidy averaging \$145. Energy consumption education, water heater system inspection, air sealing and attic insulation for those below 125% of the federal poverty level. Weatherization Program.
Louisiana	Project Care	Minor weatherization measures (caulking, weather stripping; minor repair of heating and cooling equipment, and help with utility bills for seniors.

STATE	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
Maine	Low income Assistance Program (LIAP)	Supplements LIHEAP by paying electric bills. (\$5.7 million yearly)
Maryland	Customer Assistance Maintenance Program Conservation Home Improvement Program	Customers of Baltimore Gas and Electric can qualify to earn up to \$144 yearly in discounts on their BGE bills. Energy efficiency measures, including installation of high efficiency light bulbs and water heater conservation measures, along with air conditioner and water heater credits.
Massachusetts	Low income rate assistance Low income Efficiency	Utility rate discounts totaling nearly \$40 million per year and ranging from 20 percent to 42 percent off the low income customer bill. Low income discount rate receivers also eligible for free energy audits, electric base load measures, appliance efficiency services, attic and wall insulation, air sealing and heating system replacement.
Michigan	Rate Assistance Winter Protection Plan	Arrearage forgiveness and deposit and fee waivers were provided by utilities that participated in the state's automated positive billing system and other payment plans. Under positive billing, a participating household must pay a percentage of its monthly assistance grant to its utility. Protects low income customers and all seniors age 65 and older from service shutoff December 1 --- March 31. Low income customers pay 7 percent of their estimated annual bill plus a portion of any other amount they owe during the shutoff protection period.

STATE	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
Minnesota	Rate Assistance	50 percent discount for low income customers on the first 300-kilowatt hours consumed each month.
	Energy Conservation Improvement	A percent of a utility's gross operating revenues from service is provided to the state.
	Reliant Energy	Free energy audit for customers with qualifying incomes.
	Xcel Energy	Furnace repair, installation of cooling equipment and weatherization materials.
Mississippi	Low income Rate Assistance	Monthly base charge is waived (\$0.46 per day) for eligible low income and elderly customers receiving SSI.
Missouri	Energy Savings Account Program	An energy assistance program for LIHEAP-eligible and Welfare-to-Work clients that enables better payment behavior, supports positive financial stability and enhances quality of life. At the end of a 12-month period, ESA participants will receive matching dollars at a 1:1 ratio from AmerenUE, capping at \$300 per family.
	Urban League Community Outreach Program	Offers a range of educational, counseling and energy assistance programs.
	Empire's Action to Support the Elderly (EASE)	Provides late fee and deposit waivers for elderly (age 60 and older) and disabled customers.
	Independence Rate Assistance Program (IRAP)	Qualified elderly or disabled customers pay 50% of the electric charges on their bill.
	Home Services, Inc.	Free air conditioning units to persons with certified medical conditions in St. Louis.
Community Services League	Weather stripping around doors and windows, adding insulation, etc.	

STATE	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
Missouri Cont'd	<p data-bbox="475 268 789 327">EnergySmart – Customer Education Program</p> <p data-bbox="475 512 731 544">Missouri Gas Energy</p> <p data-bbox="475 668 761 727">Missouri Public Service (MPS)</p>	<p data-bbox="860 268 1372 480">Offers free workshops on energy conservation for small groups of low income customers through government agencies, civic organizations and churches. Laclede will conduct workshops, supply informational materials and answer questions.</p> <p data-bbox="860 512 1364 634">Provides \$250,000 a year to the city of Kansas City's weatherization program. An additional \$90,000 is provided for weatherization throughout other counties.</p> <p data-bbox="860 668 1364 789">Compact fluorescent lights; tank and pipe wrap; low-flow showerheads; kitchen aerators; attic wall and floor insulation; and duct repair.</p>
Montana	<p data-bbox="475 795 678 827">Rate Assistance</p> <p data-bbox="475 949 731 1008">Low income Furnace Program</p>	<p data-bbox="860 795 1372 885">Discount on natural gas and/or electric bills and service charge waivers for LIEAP eligible seniors and disabled.</p> <p data-bbox="860 917 1364 1008">Repair or replace natural gas furnaces for low income households in Great Falls from October through September.</p>
Nebraska	None	
Nevada	Low income Rate Assistance	Waive deposit and reconnection fee; arrearage forgiveness to 60 years or older or disabled.
New Hampshire	Low income Rate Assistance	Up to 25 percent off electric bills of low income customers.
New Jersey	Comfort Partners	Provides direct installation of cost effective energy efficiency measures, energy education and counseling and arrearage forgiveness for participants who agree to payment plans.
New Mexico	Community Ambassadors Project	Employees deliver an energy efficient fan or a lap blanket with information about heat stress and or cold stress to select elderly.
New York	Rate Assistance	Rate assistance, arrearage forgiveness, weatherization, appliance repair and replacement and aggregation.

STATE	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
North Carolina	Low income Rate Assistance	Discount on first 350 kilowatts for seniors 65 years and older and receiving SSI.
	Cooling Assistance	Electric bill assistance.
	Fan-Heat Relief Program	Purchase of fans for senior citizens.
North Dakota	None	
Ohio	Rate Assistance	Rate discounts or fee waivers
	Energy Efficiency	Furnace/heat pump clean and tune, energy efficient light bulbs, energy saving tips, hot water heater wrap, pipe wrap, weather-stripping, duct sealing, wall and attic insulation and other air leakage sealing measures.
	Fresh Start	An arrearage-crediting program for customers no longer on PIPP.
Oklahoma	Rate Assistance	Electricity customers pay the regular residential rate for the first 600 kilowatts used and then receive a credit of \$0.67 per kilowatt from November through April.
	Hand-N-Hand	Natural gas customers receive a reduced gas bill, which averages \$5.03 a month during the winter months (October through April) and \$4.26 during the summer months (May through September). Free home weatherization for senior citizen homeowners unable to do the work themselves.
Oregon	Rate Assistance	20% to 30% discount on City utilities (water, wastewater, and electric) to Ashland residents over the age of 65. Seniors and disabled persons apply beginning in December, all others in January, for a one-time per heating season credit of \$75 - \$150. Electricity customers get free weatherization, senior and disabled citizens also get energy education and energy-efficient measures.
	Community Energy Project.	Teach senior citizens and persons with disabilities conserve energy and weatherproof their homes. Gives out showerheads and compact fluorescent light bulbs for workshop attendance.

STATE	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
Pennsylvania	None	
Rhode Island	Rate Assistance	Discount of \$10 per month on electric bills and a natural gas discount equal to 35% of the LIHEAP grant.
	Low income Energy Efficiency	Services are available to low income customers to help lower electric bills.
South Carolina	Fan-Heat Relief	Purchase of fans for senior citizens.
South Dakota	None	
Tennessee	None	
Texas	Low income Discount	The \$6 service charge is waived for customers with persons living in the household who receive SSI, City of Austin Medical Assistance Program (MAP) or Aged, Blind and Disabled Medicaid.
Utah	Electricity "Lifeline" Program	\$8 per month credit on electric bills funded through a \$0.12 per month surcharge on all electric customers.
	Low income Energy Efficiency	Energy education, electrical usage evaluation, appliance testing, audit and the installation of cost-effective measures
Vermont	Efficiency Vermont	A unique "energy efficiency utility" provide energy efficiency services such as lighting, refrigerator replacement, and water heater efficiency measures.
Virginia	Security Deposit Option Plan	Utilities waive security deposits for timely customer payments. (\$35,000 cap)
	Fan Care	Free fans to elderly Virginians.
Washington	Rate Assistance	5% to 40% of seniors or disabled customer's utility bill is discounted Customers may receive assistance of up to 50% or \$200 of their electric bill if they have received a final notice. Household income must be at or below 200% of federal poverty, and customers must have already received help from the Energy Assistance Program. Payment arrangements to cover any balance are required. This assistance is limited to once a year.

STATE	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
West Virginia	Rate Assistance	All gas and electric utilities offer a reduced rate of 20% from December - April. Eligible customers are those receiving SSI, TANF, and seniors receiving food stamps.
Wisconsin	Rate Assistance Early Identification Programs	The state's major gas and electric utilities augment available low income energy assistance resources through individual programs such as discounts, fee waivers and other services. Assistance for payment troubled households, which varies for each utility but may include budget counseling, arrearage forgiveness, affordable payment plans, and consumer education.
Wyoming	Low income Rate Assistance and Energy Efficiency	Pay current and past electric bills and install home energy-efficiency measures; replace inefficient appliances such as refrigerators and air-conditioners with Energy Star-certified models.

DATA SOURCES

IM2002-10 (Targeting LIHEAP Benefits –2/25/02) issued by HHS

IM2002-9 (2002 HHS Poverty Guidelines for Optional Use in Federal Fiscal Year 2002 LIHEAP Programs & Mandatory Use In Federal Fiscal Year 2003 LIHEAP Programs – 2/15/02)

Dalaker, J. (2001). *Poverty in the United States: 2000* (U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, Series P60-214). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

IM2002-8 (State Median Income Estimates for Optional Use in Federal Fiscal Year 2002 LIHEAP Programs & Mandatory Use In Federal Fiscal Year 2003 LIHEAP Programs – 2/14/02)

