

National Community Action Foundation
Washington, DC
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**Private Sector Contributions Assist Consumers
Who Cannot Afford Their Energy Bills
February 28, 2006**

The National Community Action Foundation analyzed news reports and data collected by several national groups* and identified new resources increases directed to helping 2006 energy consumers who cannot afford their household energy bills that come from private sector contributions.

Consumers in 24 states benefited from private generosity.

- ❖ Electric and gas utilities increased both their corporate gifts and their public fundraising campaigns for energy assistance. Collectively 31 companies' shareholders and customers added new contributions of \$34,665,000. (The utility industries typically donate or raise about \$100 million per year for this purpose. These amounts represent increases above previous cycles.)
- ❖ Eight local foundations and other large donors also contributed \$5,781,000 to meet urgent winter needs.
- ❖ Only four companies in the domestic oil and gas production or transportation industry, all of them Oklahoma-based independent gas producers, made any contributions to assist the poor. Their donations totaled \$1,750,000.

Public-Sector Resources Have Also Been Added

- ❖ One OPEC member nation, Venezuela, provided #2 home heating oil or cash to charities in 6 states at a 40% discount. (The official donor was its wholly owned 'private' subsidiary, CITGO, Inc.) The value totaled approximately \$ 28,734,000.
- ❖ 37 states have increased assistance for low-income energy programs either through direct appropriations or by ordering increases in mandated utility programs funded through rates. These programs collectively far exceed private and corporate donations.

LIHEAP Reduced

- ❖ LIHEAP federal assistance resources available for this winter total about \$2.05 billion, a to date, a figure lower than either last year or five years earlier. Federal Weatherization funding has risen slightly to \$242 million. Cuts in both programs are proposed for FY 2007. Further information is available at www.ncaf.org under the "Energy" link.

Low-Income Consumer Hardships Worsen

- ❖ As of February, the Department of Energy predicts heating bills will be 24% higher than a year earlier, and sustained record bills for the balance of the year, in spite of milder-than-normal weather to date.
- ❖ Americans in poverty would have to spend about ¼ of this year's entire income just to maintain their low levels of heating and appliance use. They cannot afford to do so without far more help than is available now.

* For descriptions and data on 2006 and previous years' low-income energy resources, visit the LIHEAP clearinghouse at <http://www.liheap.ncat.org/>. For information on utility charitable initiatives for low-income consumers, see the National Fuel Funds Network site at <http://www.nationalfuel funds.org/>. For estimates of low-income bills, go to www.opportunitystudies.org.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTION FOUNDATION
Washington DC

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Chart of New Private Sector Donations
To Assist Low-Income Energy Consumers in Winter 2005-06, by State

Utility and Other Private Organizations' New Donations for Energy Assistance in 2005-2006					
State	Area Covered	Resources to:	Est. \$ Value	Source	Additional details
California	Central California	Customers at risk of losing energy services	\$250,000	Pacific Gas and Electric	PG & E will also match customer and shareholder donations up to \$750,000.
Colorado	Statewide	Low-income energy bill assistance and the state's energy efficiency program (WAP)	\$5,400,000	Xcel Energy	Xcel will give \$2 million to Energy Outreach Colorado, \$2.4 million to Energy Saving Partners and will donate up to \$1million to match individual and business donations to Energy Outreach Colorado this winter.
District of Columbia	Washington metropolitan area	Low-income energy assistance	\$100,000	Washington Gas	
Florida	Statewide	Low-income energy assistance	\$1,000,000	Florida Power & Light Co.	
Georgia	GNG customers	"HEAT" fuel fund	\$500,000	Georgia Natural Gas	

	Statewide	Grants distributed to 4 Georgia social service agencies for heating bill assistance to low-income families and the elderly	\$315,000	Atlanta Gas Light grants	
Illinois	Chicago	Supplement to LIHEAP	\$1,000,000	Com Ed	
	Northern Illinois	Distribution of Home Energy Conservation kits to low-income families	\$500,000	Northern Illinois Energy Project (NIEP)	
	Statewide	Low-income energy assistance	\$2,000,000	Peoples Gas	
Indiana	Statewide	"Help Thy Neighbor Fund" Households who are over income for LIHEAP and who have been shut-off or are threatened with shut-off	\$1,000,000	NIPSCO, Citizens Gas and Vectren	
	Statewide	"Help Thy Neighbor Fund"	\$5,000,000	Lilly Endowment	
	Central and South Indiana customers	Low-income bill payment assistance	\$100,000	Indiana Michigan Power	
Iowa	Dubuque area	Low-income bill payment assistance	\$500,000	Aquila	Aquila will match up to \$375,000 in customer donations, thus yielding a potential total value of \$1 million.
Louisiana	Statewide Cleco Power customers	Low-income bill payment assistance	\$200,000	Cleco Power	

Sources: www.ncat/liheap.org; www.fuel funds.org
Prepared with the assistance of Leonora MacEwen

Maine	5 eastern Maine counties	Fuel assistance, weatherization, furnace maintenance	\$500,000	Eastern Maine Funders Energy Initiative	
Maryland	Statewide	"various charities and programs, including the Fuel Fund of Maryland and BGE's Community Assistance Fund"	\$5,000,000	Constellation Energy and Baltimore Gas and Electric	Note: A larger contribution will be disbursed over several years. \$2 million will go to the Fuel Fund of Maryland.
	Statewide	Fuel Fund of Maryland which assists with bill payments	\$150,000	Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation	Note: \$450,000 to be disbursed over 3 years
Massachusetts	Boston area	Low-income energy assistance	\$1,000,000	Excelerate Energy	
Michigan	Statewide	"People Care" program	\$1,000,000	Consumers Energy utility	
Minnesota	Statewide	Energy bill assistance to Salvation Army's HeatShare program for LIHEAP-eligible households	\$1,000,000	Xcel Energy	Shareholders will also match up to \$500,000 in customer donations for a possible \$2 million total.
Missouri	KCP & L customers	Weatherization for low-income customers	\$350,000	Kansas City Power & Light Co.	
	Statewide	Low-income energy assistance	\$250,000	AmerenUE	
North Carolina	Rocky Mount	Winter Assistance Rocky Mount (WARM)	\$25,000	Individual donor	
	Statewide	Fuel funds of major utilities	\$3,100,000	Duke Energy and Progress Energy	
Oklahoma	Statewide	Oklahoma Fuel Fund, which will assist with home heating costs this winter for families in	\$250,000	Chesapeake Energy Corporation	

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			\$250,000	Devon Energy Corporation	
	Tulsa	Low-income energy assistance	\$250,000	Williams Energy	
Pennsylvania	PPL territory	Operation Share	\$350,000	PPL Gas Utilities & Electric	
	Philadelphia	Low-income energy assistance	\$40,000	Citizens Bank Foundation	
	Philadelphia	Low-income energy assistance	\$50,000	Philadelphia Foundation	
	Philadelphia	Low-income energy assistance	\$8,000	MKM Foundation	
	Philadelphia	Low-income energy assistance	\$8,000	Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial Fund	
Tennessee	Chattanooga and Cleveland areas	Energy assistance for elderly individuals	\$50,000	Chattanooga Gas	
Virginia	Statewide	Low-income energy assistance	\$2,700,000	Dominion Resources, VA NatGas, Roanoke Gas, Appalachian Power, Allegheny Power	
Wisconsin	Statewide	"Keep Wisconsin Warm Fund"	\$5,000,000	WE Energies	
Private contributions to multiple states					
Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas	Hurricane victims within the Tri-State area	Power of Hope Fund	\$1,000,000	Entergy Corporation	This company will also match contributions from other utility companies nationwide that are earmarked to help hurricane victims.

Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska	Customers in the tri- state area	Low-income energy assistance	\$1,000,000	NorthWestern Energy	
Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas	Customers in the tri- state area	Low-income energy assistance	\$1,000,000	ONEOK Foundation	