



Given the variety of supports that the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can provide and the fact that natural disasters and climate change disproportionately impact low-income individuals and families, LIHEAP is particularly poised to help address energy needs and the effects of climate change, while simultaneously increasing the health and wellbeing of the most vulnerable populations.

## LIHEAP'S ROLE IN ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & RACIAL & ENERGY EQUITY

Since 1981, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been providing critical energy assistance to those most in need. Eligible households receive benefits for heating, cooling, crisis assistance, weatherization, minor home repairs to reduce energy consumption and make homes more energy efficient, and other vital services to help ensure safe indoor air temperature. Serving over 5 million households annually, LIHEAP is a lifeline to many individuals and families who would have faced shutoffs or would have had unmanageable arrears. By helping to bridge the home energy affordability gap and reduce [the energy burden placed on low-income families and individuals](#), particularly those with the lowest incomes, LIHEAP helps to promote racial and energy equity as well as environmental justice.

## GRANT RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT

As a block grant program, states, territories, and tribes have the flexibility to use LIHEAP funding to respond to natural disasters and extreme weather to meet the needs of their local communities. For example, the [Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma](#) recently developed its own LIHEAP disaster relief policy that includes responding to severe weather (e.g., excessive heat temperatures, ice storms, blizzards, high winds and/or hail caused by tornadoes or thunderstorms). Under this disaster relief policy, LIHEAP can be used to provide assistance for heaters, air conditioners, or generator units, as well short-term hotel/motel assistance to mitigate an energy crisis caused by severe weather.

## LIHEAP's Impact by the Numbers

In Fiscal Year 2020, LIHEAP:



Reduced energy burden by **~4%**



Provided cooling assistance to over **900,000 households**



Prevented the loss of home energy services of **over 1.4 million households**



Helped **5.6 million households** pay their energy bills



Provided an average heating assistance benefit of **\$429**



Served **over 50,000 households** with weatherization or minor home repairs



## CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

This Earth Day, OCS is highlighting energy equity's strong connection to environmental justice and racial equity. Today, we celebrate the work that LIHEAP and our grant recipients at the state, territory, and tribal level have done to promote environmental justice and racial equity in their communities; and we look forward to continuing our work to ensure energy equity for all.