

Mississippi LIHEAP :

CAMPAIGN FOR
HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

The **Low Income Home Energy Assistance program (LIHEAP)** is one of the most critical components of the social safety net. The program provides heating and cooling assistance to almost 6 million low-income households, including the working poor, those making the difficult transition from welfare to work, disabled persons, elderly and families with young children.

A National Program: A Common misconception about LIHEAP is that it only benefits cold weather states of the Northeast and Midwest. However, LIHEAP's FY 2009 record level of \$5.1 billion demonstrated that it is truly a national program servicing low-income households in Southern and Western states with much needed cooling assistance to combat deadly heat waves.

While many states are held at a hold-harmless rate of \$1.98 billion, a number of states, including Mississippi, benefit greatly if the appropriation increases.

Under 75%	70%
75%-100%	18%
101%-150%	9%

Eligibility: MS families receiving LIHEAP assistance have incomes below **150 percent of the federal** poverty level. As you can see in the chart, the majority fall well below the cap.

Elderly	37%
Disabled	26%
Children under 5	22%

Recipient Demographics

MS Funding:

The Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations bill includes \$5.1 billion for LIHEAP, which will provide MS with **\$40 million** in funding.

As the chart displays, an increase in LIHEAP funding will enable MS to distribute assistance to a greater number of eligible households.

Source:

LIHEAP Energy Notebook, FY04
National Energy Assistance Directors Association
Home Energy Affordability Gap 2007 Report

Fiscal Year	Base	Contingency	Total	Mississippi allocation
2009	\$4.5 b	\$590 m	\$5.1 b	\$40 m
2008	\$1.98 b	\$590 m	\$2.57 b	\$16.5 m
2007	\$1.98 b	\$181 m	\$2.161 b	\$27.4 m
2006	\$2.48 b	\$681 m	\$3.161 b	\$27.4 m