



Policy Resolution 01.2025

Urging Continued Funding for the Low -Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Sponsor

Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, Maryland

WHEREAS, extreme weather events and rising energy costs pose serious threats to public health, household stability, and economic resilience across the southern region, particularly for low-income families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress established the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in 1981 to assist eligible households in meeting their home energy needs, including heating, cooling, and crisis intervention; and

WHEREAS, LIHEAP funds are appropriated by Congress to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which administers formula grants to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Native American tribes, and U.S. territories; and

WHEREAS, each state within the Southern States Energy Board's region has a state agency that conducts its own procurement and outreach process to deliver LIHEAP benefits tailored to local needs, including emergency utility assistance, weatherization, and energy education; and

WHEREAS, LIHEAP strengthens local economies by reducing energy-related financial strain on working families, allowing them to redirect household income toward consumer spending, savings, and workforce participation; and

WHEREAS, LIHEAP helps families avoid utility shutoffs, prevent heat stress and cold-related illness, and maintain safe, stable housing during times of financial hardship; and

WHEREAS, LIHEAP aligns with the Southern States Energy Board's mission to promote energy access, economic development, and environmental stewardship across the southern states and territories; and

WHEREAS, LIHEAP has demonstrated a strong return on investment by reducing energy insecurity, improving household stability, and supporting community well-being.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board hereby urges the federal government to prioritize necessary funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Such funding should be allocated toward the development, implementation, and expansion of programs aimed at assisting low-income households with energy costs and emergency utility needs and supporting outreach and education efforts to ensure access to LIHEAP benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board emphasizes the importance of public awareness campaigns to highlight the lifesaving and economy-strengthening impact of LIHEAP, and to empower families to seek assistance before energy crises occur; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board encourages continued innovation and interagency collaboration to improve program delivery, expand eligibility, and strengthen the compassionate infrastructure that LIHEAP represents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board affirms LIHEAP as a vital expression of regional solidarity and shared values — compassion, economic opportunity, and resilience — and calls upon its members to advocate for sustained and expanded support of this essential program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives representing the Southern States Energy Board member states, the Secretary of Energy, and other relevant officials.

Adopted September 29, 2025

