

National Energy Assistance Directors' Association

For Immediate Release

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STATE LOW INCOME ENERGY DIRECTORS CALL ON THE PRESIDENT TO RELEASE EMERGENCY FUNDS IN RESPONSE TO EXCESSIVE HEAT CONDITIONS

WASHINGTON, DC The state directors of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) today called on the President to release program emergency funds to help low income families stay safe during this summer's record high temperatures.

The letter calls on the President to release the remaining \$47.6 million in emergency funds to

- Assist families with paying high energy bills to pay for increased cooling needs.
- Purchase window air conditioners to allow families to have at least one air conditioned room of their home. This is special concern for the low income elderly, disabled and those with chronic health conditions who are at greatest risk of illness from high temperatures.
- Repair or replace central cooling equipment.
- Provide funds to restore energy service to families who were unable to pay last winter's record high heating bills and as a result have had their power shut-off.

According to Mark Wolfe, Executive Director of NEADA, "there is plenty of evidence that low income families will not turn on their air conditioning in the summer because they are afraid that they will not be able to pay the resulting energy bill. The release of emergency funds will help these families stay safe during this period of extreme heat."

NEADA represents the LIHEAP directors.

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