

National Energy Assistance Directors' Association  
1228 31<sup>st</sup> NW  
Washington, DC 20007

October 1, 2014  
The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell,

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides heating and cooling assistance to more than six million very low-income households across the country. LIHEAP is one of the first programs to start providing services right after the beginning of the fiscal year. This allows programs, especially those in the cold weather states, to quickly sign up vulnerable low income households prior to the start of the winter heating season.

As winter heating season approaches, we are concerned that any delay in releasing program funds will cause unnecessary hardships to the households that we serve. Thus, we are writing to respectfully request that the Department of Health and Human Services release LIHEAP funds at the same level as provided in FY 2014 as quickly as possible in order to allow the program to provide services to address immediate needs as the winter heating season gets underway.

Please feel free to contact us if we can provide you with any additional information on the need for the release of funds or other questions regarding the delivery of energy assistance services.

Sincerely,



Larry Dawson  
Deputy Director, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity  
Office of Energy Assistance  
State of Illinois and Chair NEADA

cc: Valerie Jarrett, White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs  
Shaun Donovan, Director, OMB