LIFE
Low-Income Forum on Energy

LIFE News

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SAVE THE DATE

May 22-23, 2012

2012 STATEWIDE CONFERENCE
LIFE
Low-Income Forum on Energy

6th Annual Symposium on Poverty and Economic Security

The New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA) will host its 6th Annual Symposium on Poverty and Economic Security on March 15-16, 2012 in Albany, New York. For more information, please click here.

A Note from the LIFE Chairman

Mark your calendars for the 2012 LIFE Statewide Conference on May 22 and 23 in Albany, New York. Although it may seem like May is a long way off, the LIFE steering committee is busy planning, organizing and collaborating to make this statewide conference highly successful. We will be announcing tracks, sessions, and tentative speakers shortly, so stay tuned.

On Friday, January 20, LIFE conducted a lively and interesting webinar on LIHEAP Action Day. Advocacy representatives discussed the purpose of and logistics of LIHEAP Action Day and how to make the most out of LIHEAP advocacy. If you would like to view a recording of this presentation, click here. For further information on this or if you have thoughts or ideas for other webinars, please contact me. Thank you for your support of the LIFE program.

Len Silverstein
LIFE Chairman

We hope you have been enjoying the LIFE Newsletter. Please take a moment to complete a short survey to help us improve the format and the content of the newsletter.

Click here to take the LIFE newsletter survey

Presents:

The Impact of Higher Energy Prices on Older Consumers

February 21, 2012
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Presenters: Neal Walters and Ann McLarty Jackson, AARP Public Policy Institute

Register Here

All webinars are offered at no cost to participants.

About LIFE

LIFE Mission

The LIFE Steering Committee

NYS Department of Public Service

NYSERDA

Association for Energy Affordability

Cattaraugus Community Action

Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp.

Community Power of NYS

Consolidated Edison of NY

National Fuel Gas

National Grid

NYS Community Action Association

Best Practices

The Orange County United Way offers a unique initiative that allows income-eligible residents of Orange County to address their energy needs through an Individual Development Account (IDA). The Energy Savers Program (ESP) is designed to help low to middle income households that may be struggling financially to manage their energy costs. The ESP matches a household's dollar savings (up to a limit) for the purpose of paying for energy efficiency improvements or energy bills.

Upon entering the program, each household identifies an energy savings goal and sets up a savings account with the United Way and a financial institution. The consumer makes a commitment to save a certain amount of money per month towards that goal over a specified period of time not to exceed 18 months. Additional incentive dollars can be earned by attending financial literacy, financial budgeting and energy conservation workshops through the Orange County Fuel Fund. At the end of the agreed upon amount of time, monies in the account will be matched and sent to a vendor for the energy savings related goal. Some of the goals the ESP can help an eligible household save towards are:

- An energy audit
- An energy efficient appliance
- A new hot water heater
- Heating costs

Your Household Size	Your Household Montly Income Is At or Below
1	$2,496
2	$3,264
3	$4,028
4	$4,801
5	$5,569
6	$6,337
7	$6,481
8	$6,624
9	$6,770
10	$6,913

To date, 21 households have participated or are participating in the ESP. 6 households have graduated and 11 households are expected to graduate within the next few months. Graduating households have used their energy

NYS Department of State

NYS Homes and Community Renewal

NYS Office for the Aging

NYS Weatherization Directors Association

NYSEG

NYS OTDA

Orange and Rockland Utilities

United Way of Orange County

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Suggestions

Click here to suggest a topic for a future article.

savings to purchase new washers and dryers, to pay down utility bills and to pay for oil or propane.

For more information on the ESP, the United Way of Orange County or to apply for the Energy Savers Program, please visit www.nwoc.org (go to the "Need Help" tab at the top of the page) or call 845) 457-4774 extension 3112.

Suggested Reading

NYSERDA Adds Money to Low-Income Program

Protect Your Family and Yourself from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Low-Income Energy in the Press

New York News

HEAP Applications On Rise As Chill Of Winter Arrives
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle
When sources of income only come "once in a blue moon," paying heating bills can be difficult. That's why Joshua Simpson, a 22-year-old Rochester resident, signed up from the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) last month …

Heating Assistance Cuts Running Deep
Daily Gazette
As the temperature plummets, worries about fuel bills rise. Concerns are heightened this heating season because of the recent reduction in benefits provided by the Home Energy Assistance Program ...

Many Homeowners Switching To Gas Heat As Oil Prices Go Up
Times Record Herald
George Thurston has already been tapping solar energy for a few years to cut his electricity bill when he spied a construction crew installing …

$30 Mil Project Aims to Rehab 254 North Country Low-Income Housiing Units
WatertownDailyTimes.com
To transform these run-down housing units into safer and more energy-efficient homes for low-income families and senior citizens, Conifer teamed up with the US Department of Agriculture's Office of Rural Development, the state Housing Finance Agency ...

Reed Debuts LIHEAP Legislation In U.S. House
Steuben Courier
“In cold Western New York winters, heat is not a luxury. It is a necessity.” The bill does not increase LIHEAP funding, but will restore it to its original purpose, funding heat for low-income families and individuals in cold-weather states ...

Federal Cuts In HEAP Could Cause Serious Problems
North Country Gazette
Kerosene is hovering between $4.25 and $4.40 a gallon with fuel oil around $4 and with the federal government contemplating slashing the amount of money for HEAP, the federally funded Home Energy Assistance Place almost in half for New York State ...

HEAP Payments Cut, Fuel Oil Prices Up
WRGB
The price you pay to stay warm depends on how you heat your home but if you get HEAP; your benefit will be $150 less this season compared to last. The federal government slashed funding to the HEAP program this year nationwide. Leaders at The New York ...

National News

Low-Income Tenants In Vancouver's Olympic Village Fear Eviction Over Utility Bills
Straight.com
The energy costs were on top of a separate bill from BC Hydro for electricity consumption. “For many of these residents, those bills represent upwards of 10 percent of their monthly income of what they're actually living on,” said Bernstein ...

Energy Affordability Gap Widens: Low Income Families Struggle To Stay Warm
Hartford Courant
The nonprofit group provides emergency assistance to families that don't qualify for the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. The gap is more than "numbers and dollars," said regional economist Roger D. Colton, the study's author ...

Biggest Study Into Carbon Monoxide Poisoning
BBC News
Two fire services have embarked upon Britain's biggest study into carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, to try to reduce the number of deaths it causes. Crews on Merseyside and in the West Midlands have visited more than 20000 properties to take household ...

NE Governors Say They Can't Fill Heating Aid Gap
Wall Street Journal
The Obama administration has proposed cutting money for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program in half — to about $2.5 billion nationwide. A spending bill in the US House calls for cutting spending to $3.4 billion; the Senate is proposing $3.6 ...

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