LIFE
Low-Income Forum on Energy

LIFE News

February 2012

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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

As we move past the midway point of this year's heating season, it has been a relatively mild and dry season so far. In fact, here in Albany we are almost 800 heating degree days below average for the season to date. While we have seen mild temperatures and historically low prices for natural gas customers, oil heating customers are being hit hard with record prices. According to NYSERDA, the statewide average is currently about $4.00 per gallon for home heating fuel. Highlighting this difference in fuel prices, there is a link to an interesting New York Times article below entitled, "As the Price of Oil Soars, Users Cross Their Fingers and Shiver."

Also I'd like to bring the public comment period for the HEAP 2012-13 program year to your attention. Below, you'll find information on how to provide your input to NYS OTDA for the development of the 2012-13 HEAP Plan. Please note, comments are due March 9, 2012.

Thank you for your support of the LIFE program.

Len Silverstein
LIFE Chairman

Give Us Your Feedback

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

March 22
10:30am – 11:30am EST
Reducing Utility Costs in Public Housing: Putting HUD's Energy Use and Cost Reduction Incentives to Work at the Chicago Housing Authority
Register Here

April 26
10:00am – 11:00am EST
Socioeconomic Impacts of Loss of Utilities
Register Here

All webinars are offered at no cost to participants.

About LIFE

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

Honeywell

National Fuel Gas

National Grid

HEAP 2012-13 Needs Assessment Public Comment Period

The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) has issued a notice of a needs assessment public comment period to provide for input on the development of the NYS plan for the 2012-13 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).

In accordance with the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, as amended, the State of New York provides for input on the development of the 2012-13 New York State Plan for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).

COMMENTS:
Written, faxed or e-mailed comments on the development of the 2012-13 New York Home Energy Assistance Program State Plan will be accepted through close of business on March 9, 2012.

Written comments should be addressed to:
NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
HEAP Bureau
40 North Pearl Street, 11C
Albany, New York 12243

Faxed comments should be sent to:
NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
HEAP Bureau
(518) 474-9347 or to (518) 474-0985

E-mailed comments should be sent to: NYSHEAP@otda.ny.gov

Suggested Reading

HHS FY2013 Budget in Brief
U.S Department of Health & Human Services

Low-Income Energy in the Press

New York News

Obama Plan Bodes Well for Falls Air Base, Border
Buffalo News
President Obama on Monday unveiled an election year budget proposal that offers some surprising news for the Buffalo area, including a $28.1 million simulator project at the supposedly endangered Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station …

NYS Community Action Association

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

Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E)

United Way of Orange County

Mailing List

If you currently do not receive LIFE News and would like to be added to the mailing list, click here

Suggestions

Click here to suggest a topic for a future article.

HHS FY2013 Budget Overview
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Good morning and thank you for joining us as we release our Department's 2013 budget. I am proud to be joined by our Department's senior leaders. They are just a few of the many dedicated and talented men and women at HHS who come to work every day ...

ARRA Funds will be Missed Locally
Auburn Press
New York State Homes and Community Renewal (NYSHCR), which administers the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) in New York state, received approximately $70 million for WAP in 2010 …

How to Get Help Paying for Heating Oil
New York Times
As the threat of an actual winter intensifies, advocates for the poor have been worrying about how low-income households will cope with the high cost of heating oil …

Funding Available To Eligible Seniors For Home Repairs
Westchester.com
Low-income seniors may be eligible for free repairs to make their homes more energy efficient – and thereby save on their utility bills – through the Weatherization Referral Assistance Program (WRAP) …

State Program Offers Energy Retrofitting to Moderate-Income Homeowners
Star Gazette
A new state program will allow homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient and pay off the cost on their utility bills. The "on-bill recovery" program rolled out Monday. Passed in 2011, "on-bill" will allow moderate-income homeowners …

Laborers Train Society's 'Left Behind' for Green Jobs; Launch Green Local
Unions.org
With the graduation of seven newly certified weatherization technicians from its Eastern New York Laborers Training Center, the New York State Laborers' Union (NYSLIUNA) is blowing holes in several right-wing myths all at once, proving that jobless people do want to work …

NYSERDA Announces Increase in Energy Funding for Low-Income Families
The Saratogian
To help more low-income households cut their energy bills this year, funding for EmPower New York will increase by $18 million, providing a total of $46 million in 2012, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority ...

A New State Program will Allow Homeowners to Make Their Homes More Energy Efficient
Ithaca Journal
Passed in 2011, "on-bill" will allow moderate-income homeowners to make energy improvements and repay the cost as part of their monthly utility bill. The program is being administered by the Green Jobs/Green NY program. Program directors say in many ...

New York State Study Sees Hope in Solar Energy, but Little Savings Certainty
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle
Nevertheless, even with this range of cost uncertainty, given the many potential benefits that (solar energy) has to offer and the long-term potential for lower-cost (solar) technology, New York state should support continued investment in the steady ...

HEAP Needed Despite Mild Temperatures
WatertownDailyTimes.com
Federal funding for the pro From Oct. 1 to the beginning of February, Jefferson County spent $2348293 on HEAP and $543155 on emergency HEAP. Federal funding for the program in New York dropped this year from $534.4 million to $250 million and the ...

National News

HHS FY2013 Budget Overview
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

As Price Of Oil Soars, Users Shiver And Cross Their Fingers
New York Times
When David Harris built his 2,000-square-foot hilltop home nine years ago, he wanted to put in natural gas, but the utility wouldn't run a line to his house. Like many people here, he was stuck using heating oil …

Feds Reject N.J. Request For More Weatherization Funding
The Star-Ledger
New Jersey won't get any more federal funding in 2012 for weatherization, a program that creates jobs by making homes of low-income families more energy efficient …

New Walk To Help People with Power Bills
Rapid City Journal
Organizers of a new event aim to raise thousands of dollars to help low-income people pay their power bills, a need that is growing in the Rapid City area …

Denver Carbon-Monoxide Victim Had Money Troubles Months After Teen Sons' Death
Denver Post
Scarlett "Coco" Jones had barely begun to regain her bearings after her son's death six months ago when a cold snap and chronic financial troubles put her in a tough spot. With her electricity cut off, she sought a way to stay warm …

A Bill to Eliminate Indiana Sales Tax On Low-Income Energy Assistance
Public News Service
Federal heating assistance for low-income Hoosiers would be exempt from the 7 percent sales tax next season under a bill which passed the state House unanimously and is poised …

Local Programs Fill Void In Federal Heating Assistance
Addison County Independent
The Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) is doing its best to keep Vermonters warm this winter. But with slashes to federal funding, greater operating expenses and increased demand for fuel assistance, the administer of the federal Low Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is looking for help …

The United Nations Says Sustainable Energy Will Go Worldwide In 2012
Good Environment
Yesterday, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched the United Nations' International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, calling on businesses and governments around the world to speed the adoption of energy efficiency measures, rely more heavily on renewable energy …

Fuel Poverty Impacts On Mental Health
University of Ulster Online
Fuel poverty has long been associated with having a damaging effect on physical health but new research has revealed that stress-related illnesses can also be triggered, a University of Ulster psychologist told a major conference in Dublin today …

Habitat Goes Green And Saves New Residents Some Green
USA TODAY
Each is asked to build homes that meet Energy Star's requirements for energy efficiency, though specifics about how houses are built are left to the local groups. The idea behind the program, Clark says is simple: Habitat builds homes for low income ...

More Veterans Receive Help With Heating Bills
New York Times
The number of low-income veterans receiving government assistance for their heating and cooling bills hit a new high last year, according to a survey by a federal energy-assistance program. Over the last four years, the survey found ...

LIFE is sponsored by the New York State Public Service Commission and