

ERE-1/EL-1/CPI-1/GS-1 Resolution to Support Adequate and Timely Federal Funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Whereas the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (“LIHEAP”), established in 1981 and administered through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”), helps low-income households with their energy bills, covering heating, cooling, and crisis assistance, as well as weatherization improvements;

Whereas more than 300 million households have received LIHEAP assistance since the program’s inception and more than 5 million housing units have been weatherized;

Whereas 5.9 million households received LIHEAP support in FY 2024. LIHEAP is critical for vulnerable populations serving seniors on fixed incomes, individuals with disabilities, families of young children, and low-income households. Funding support reduces disconnections, often directly paying the utility;

Whereas growing national energy demand has led to rising electricity and natural gas prices, with U.S. average electricity prices increasing by 13 percent from 2022 to 2025, outpacing inflation;

Whereas energy affordability has become a leading national concern with consumers across the country voicing an inability to afford increasing utility bills, rising housing costs and other essential needs;

Whereas climate-related extreme weather events have increased the frequency and severity of both heating and cooling emergencies;

Whereas children and the elderly are more sensitive to extreme temperatures because they are physiologically less able to regulate body temperature and people with complex medical needs also shoulder higher energy costs, due to electricity-dependent equipment;

Whereas in 2024, approximately 23 percent of the households in the US lived in energy poverty;

Whereas households that spend more than 6 percent of their income on energy costs are energy burdened. Energy burdened households spend more than 20% of income for utilities;

Whereas single parents, who are disproportionately women, are more likely to be energy insecure, as are rural residents, Indigenous and minority households;

Whereas current federal LIHEAP funding reaches less than 20% of eligible families;

Whereas states are responsible for creating and administering their own LIHEAP programs; and states rely on timely, predictable, and adequate levels of federal funding to administer LIHEAP effectively before the onset of peak winter and summer seasons;

Whereas timely funding is necessary to enable utility and local agency coordination regarding bill assistance, arrearage management, and energy efficiency programs;

Whereas maintenance of full federal administrative staff for LIHEAP at HHS is essential to ensure that States and local partners do not experience delays in technical assistance, slower allocation processes, and limited critical funding access for vulnerable populations;

Whereas proposed total LIHEAP funding for FY26 is \$3.6B. Total LIHEAP funding for FY25 was \$4.1B and total LIHEAP funding for FY24 was \$4.1B; now, therefore, be it,

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (“NARUC”), convened at its 2026 Winter Policy Summit in Washington, D.C., urges Congress and the Administration to appropriate no less than \$4.2B for LIHEAP annually, provide equivalent advance appropriates to ensure continual funding, and fully staff HHS to ensure all funds are released in a timely manner in advance of peak seasons.

Passed by the Committees on Energy, Resources and the Environment, Electricity, Gas, and Consumers and the Public Interest on February 9, 2026.

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on February 11, 2026.