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The logo for neuac, featuring the lowercase letters 'neuac' in a white, serif font on a dark blue rectangular background.

National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition

Last night, the President signed the combination spending bill and COVID-19 relief package passed last week by Congress. Below is a summary of utility assistance-related funding of note.

Included in the spending bill:

- **\$3.75 billion for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for FY21**

Included in the COVID-19 relief funding:

- **\$25 billion for an Emergency Rental Assistance Program that also allows payment for utility bills and arrearages for renters.** The program will be administered by state and local government agencies with territories and tribes also receiving a portion of reserved funds
- **\$638 million for a Low-Income Household Drinking Water and Wastewater Emergency Assistance Program,** considered a victory for water utility assistance advocates as the first federal water assistance legislation of its kind and magnitude. The funding is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which also administers LIHEAP, and will be used to pay water and wastewater bills for eligible households. The program provides grants to states and tribes, which in turn

Because no specific funding was appropriated for LIHEAP in the relief portion of the bill, it is imperative that your organization act now to support the program as we approach a new year, new administration, and new Congress. [Sign the FY22 All-Parties Letter](#) in support of LIHEAP and [register for LIHEAP Action Day](#) today.

NEUAC continues to support additional funding of at least \$4.5 billion to address the pandemic-related utility needs of households, while acknowledging the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association (NEADA) assertion that the need is in excess of \$10 billion for LIHEAP to address the utility crisis triggered by the economic repercussions of COVID-19.

Expansion of eligibility could be considered by Congress in future relief bills in order to assist households with utility needs beyond the scope of the traditional LIHEAP households.

NEUAC will continue to keep you informed on progress of utility assistance legislation as information becomes available.

About NEUAC

The National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC) is a leader in the fields of public policy, advocacy, energy and poverty issues. Members of the organization include utilities, non-profit organizations, energy assistance programs, trade associations and tribal organizations.

NEUAC currently serves more than 200 member organizations that span the nation. NEUAC provides its members with the tools to advocate for LIHEAP and other funding to support low-income families, as well as knowledge of government policies and

Since its founding in 2014 following the merger of the National Fuel Funds Network (NFFN) and National Low Income Energy Consortium (NLIEC), NEUAC also has committed itself to its advocacy and education initiatives by expanding the depth and breadth of LIHEAP Advocacy Day and the NEUAC Annual National Conference, which are the highest attended and most respected events in our field, serving as many as 700 people.



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