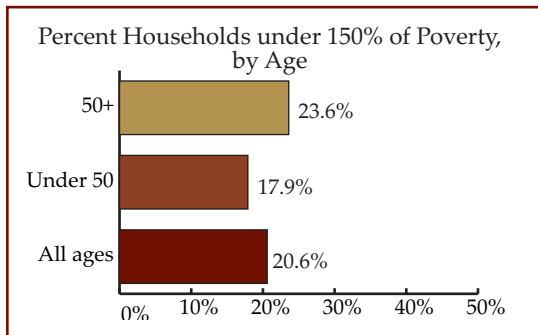


Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

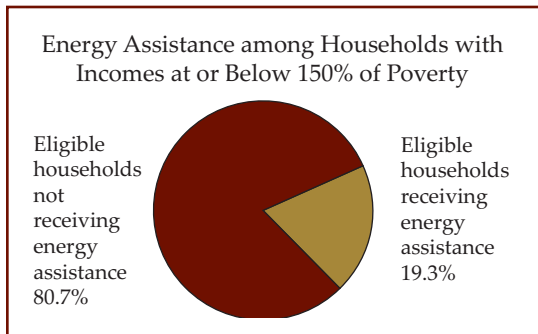
South Dakota

South Dakota in Brief (2006)

Total state population:	781,919
State median income:	\$59,272
Percent households age 50+:	47.7%

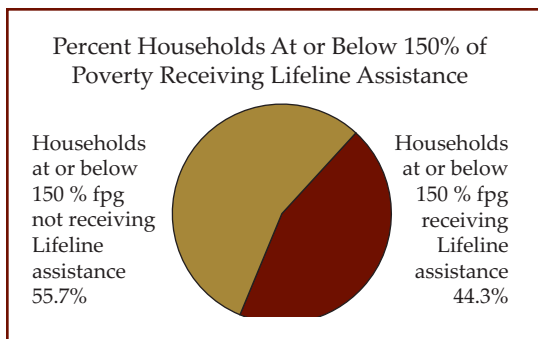


Energy Assistance



Telephone Assistance

Telephone penetration rate in state: 95.6%



Telephone Assistance

Lifeline and Link-Up are the primary sources of telephone assistance for low-income households in South Dakota.

Lifeline

Lifeline provides participating low-income households with a monthly credit toward the price of basic local telephone service.

Benefits (2006)

Maximum monthly credit: \$8.25
 Basic federal support: \$8.25
 State support: None

Funding (2005)

Federal: \$6,474,044
 State: None

Eligibility (2006)

To receive Lifeline assistance, state residents must complete an application with their local telephone provider and prove they are enrolled in any of the following programs:

- Medicaid
- Food stamps
- Supplementary Security Income (SSI)
- Federal public housing, Section 8
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Beneficiaries must recertify with their local telephone provider periodically to remain eligible for this program.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 27,985
 Participation rate: 51.9% (based on 135% of the federal poverty guideline)

Link-Up

Qualified customers receive a discount on the price of installing new telephone service.

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

Benefits (2006)

Link-Up subscribers receive the following:

- A credit of \$30 or a 50% reduction, whichever is less, on the charges customers pay for connecting to new telephone service
- The option of deferring payment on the balance of the connection fee (up to \$200) with no interest charges for a period not to exceed one year

Funding (2005)

Federal: \$590,899

Eligibility (2006)

Eligibility requirements are the same as for Lifeline.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 13,683

Energy Assistance

Low-income energy assistance programs in South Dakota include the following:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides the state of South Dakota with a block grant to help eligible low-income households meet their immediate home energy needs. With this grant, South Dakota distributes payments for heating assistance and also for crisis assistance (the latter through the Energy Crisis Intervention Program [ECIP]). ECIP offers expedited heating assistance and emergency furnace repair and replacement. The state also uses a portion of the grant to supplement funding for South Dakota's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

Benefits (FY2006)

Heating: \$865 maximum per household

Crisis: \$865 maximum per household

Emergency furnace repair: \$200 maximum per year

Clients receive one benefit a year. Benefits are paid to the energy provider unless the client's home energy costs are included in rent, in which case the payment is sent directly to the client. Heating assistance is available from October 1 to April 30. The program uses an early application period for older and disabled residents. Other applications are accepted from October 1 to March 15. Assistance in purchasing fuel oil or propane is available from July 1 to April 30. Crisis assistance consists of expedited heating assistance between October 1 and April 30, and emergency heating system repair and replacement is available year-round.

Funding (FY2006)

Total: \$17,489,585

Federal: \$17,489,585

Regular net block grant: \$10,410,444

One-time additional net block grant: \$1,816,567

Total emergency/cont.: \$5,245,666

2006 leveraging incentive program award: \$16,908

The South Dakota Department of Social Services, Office of Energy Assistance, accepts applications, determines eligibility, notifies clients, and makes payments to energy providers and clients.

South Dakota allocates LIHEAP funding in the following manner:

Heating assistance:	72%
Crisis assistance (ECIP):	5%
Weatherization:	15%
Administration, etc.:	8%

Eligibility (FY2006)

State residents with household incomes below 160% of poverty are eligible for LIHEAP.

Participation (FY2006)

Households (in 2005) served by program component:

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

Heating:	16,945
Winter/year-round crisis:	1,126
Weatherization:	684

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

Through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), the U.S. Department of Energy provides South Dakota with a formula distribution grant to help low-income residents—especially those 60 years and older, disabled, or living with young children—increase the energy efficiency of their homes, reduce their energy expenditures, and improve health and safety.

Benefits (FY2006)

Maximum average cost per household: \$2,744

Weatherization technicians use energy audits to identify and implement energy-saving measures for each home. Examples of these measures include the following:

- Insulating attics, floors, water heaters, and exposed pipes
- Tuning up, repairing, or replacing the furnace or heating unit and/or air conditioner
- Providing ventilation fans—including electric, attic, ceiling, or whole-house fans—to increase air circulation
- Stopping air infiltration by weather-stripping and caulking around doors and windows, replacing broken glass panes, and installing storm windows

Funding (FY2006)

Total: \$1,925,053

Federal: \$1,925,053

Department of Energy: \$1,925,053

The South Dakota Department of Social Services, Office of Energy Assistance, subgrants weatherization funds to four community action agencies to provide weatherization services. These agencies perform energy audits and implement suggested measures. The South Dakota Office of Energy Assistance accepts applications and determines eligibility.

Eligibility (FY2006)

Households eligible for LIHEAP assistance (at or below 160% of the federal poverty guideline) are also eligible for weatherization assistance.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 619

Seasonal, Health-, and Income-Related Disconnection Policy

Seasonal

From November 1 to March 31, South Dakota requires utilities to give an additional 30 days' notice before disconnecting service to residential customers.

Health

South Dakota requires utilities to delay for up to 30 days disconnection of residential service for nonpayment if a physician or other public health or social service official certifies in writing that such an action would adversely affect the health of the customer or another permanent resident of the household.

Deferred Payment

The state requires natural gas and electric utilities to offer residential customers the opportunity to avoid disconnection of service by agreeing and adhering to a deferred-payment agreement.