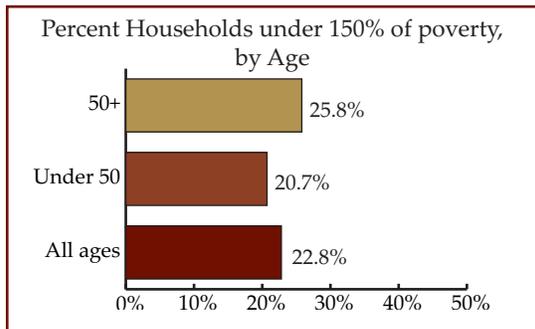


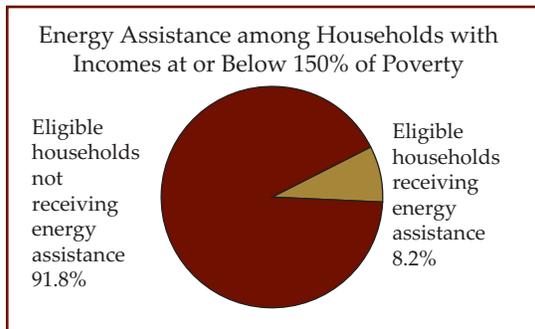
Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States District of Columbia

District of Columbia in Brief (2006)

Total state population:	581,530
State median income:	\$56,067
Percent households age 50+:	42.4%

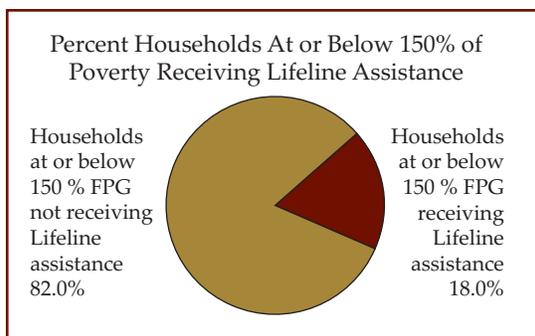


Energy Assistance



Telephone Assistance

Telephone penetration rate in state: 90.9%



Telephone Assistance

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

Lifeline (Economy II)

Lifeline provides participating low-income households with a monthly credit toward the price of basic local telephone service. Economy II is the name of the Lifeline program offered by Verizon, the largest provider of local telephone service in Washington, D.C.

Benefits (2006)

Maximum monthly credit: \$15.64; \$17.64 for seniors

Basic federal support: \$8.25

D.C.: \$6.28; \$8.28 for seniors

Federal match: \$1.75

Lifeline subscribers age 65 or older pay a flat rate of \$1 per month for local telephone service. All other Lifeline subscribers pay \$3 per month.

Funding (2005)

Federal: \$940,898

D.C.: \$884,468 (est.)

Local telephone companies recover the cost of providing this benefit in the rates they charge non-Lifeline subscribers for basic local service.

Eligibility (2006)

To receive Lifeline assistance, District residents must complete an application with their local telephone provider and prove they have a household income at or below 150% of the federal poverty guideline, or that they are eligible for or receiving Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) assistance.

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

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

Participation (2005)

Households served: 10,675

Participation rate: 18.0% (based on 150% of the federal poverty guideline)

Link-Up

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

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: \$4,570

Eligibility (2006)

Eligibility requirements are the same as for Lifeline.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 435

Energy Assistance

Energy assistance programs in the District of Columbia include the following:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)—Residential Conservation Assistance Program (RCAD)
- Residential Aid Discount (RAD)
- Residential Essential Service (RES)

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides the District of Columbia with a block grant to help eligible low-income households meet their immediate home energy needs. With this grant, the District distributes payments under two categories of assistance: heating and crisis. The city also uses a portion of the grant to supplement funding for the District's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

Benefits (FY2004)

Heating: \$1,038 maximum per household

Crisis: \$400 maximum per household

Clients receive a benefit once 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. Both heating and crisis assistance are available year-round or until funds are exhausted.

Funding (FY2006)

Total: \$15,248,522

Federal: \$12,748,522

Regular net block grant: \$6,354,918

Additional one-time block grant: \$1,496,945

Total emergency/cont.: \$387,000

REACH grant: \$381,000

FY2005 carryover: \$188,659

Department of Energy: \$940,000

TANF funds: \$3,000,000

State: \$2,500,000

D.C. government appropriation: \$2,500,000

The D.C. Energy Office (DCEO) and community action agencies in the city accept applications. The DCEO determines eligibility, notifies clients, and makes payments to energy providers and clients.

LIHEAP is funded through a federal block grant. The District allocates LIHEAP funding as follows:

Heating assistance:	65%
Crisis assistance:	10%

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

Weatherization:	15%
Administration, etc.:	10%

Eligibility (FY2006)

District residents with household incomes at or below 150% of poverty are eligible for assistance. Households found eligible for utility discounts are automatically deemed eligible for LIHEAP.

Participation in the District's LIHEAP program does not reduce the client's eligibility or benefits under other assistance programs.

Participation (FY2005 est.)

Households served:
Heating: 19,500*

*Source: LIHEAP Clearinghouse.

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)—Residential Conservation Assistance Program (RCAP)

Through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), the U.S. Department of Energy provides the District of Columbia 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 benefit per household: \$2,672

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: \$5,067,076
Federal: \$1,522,076
Department of Energy: \$712,764
Additional LIHEAP funding: \$809,312
State: \$3,545,000
Resolution Energy Trust Fund: \$3,545,000

The D.C. Energy Office contracts with seven community action agencies to accept applications, determine eligibility, notify clients, and implement weatherization measures.

Eligibility (FY2006)

Households that meet LIHEAP eligibility standards are eligible for assistance. The weatherization program also provides services to apartment buildings if at least two-thirds of the building's residents would qualify for LIHEAP. Landlords must contribute 25% to total weatherization costs.

Participation (2006)

Households served: 1,084

Residential Aid Discount (RAD)

Residential Aid Discount (RAD) is a discount program offered to low-income customers of the Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO) utility.

Benefits (FY2006)

In the winter, RAD customers who do not use all-electric heating (RAD standard) receive a 32% discount on the first 400 kWh used each month, while in the summer they receive a 63% discount on the first 400 kWh used for each summer month.

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

RAD customers with all-electric heating (RAD AE) receive a 51% discount on the first 700 kWh used each winter month and a 38% discount on the first 700 kWh used each summer month. Discounts for both types of customers must not exceed \$20 per month.

Funding (FY2005)

Total: \$2,700,000

The program is funded by a public benefit fund—the Reliable Energy Trust Fund (RETF)—financed by a \$0.0001 surcharge on residential PEPCO bills.

The D.C. Energy Office administers the program, accepting and approving applications and informing PEPCO of eligible customers.

Eligibility (FY2005)

D.C. residents who are eligible for LIHEAP are also eligible for RAD. Clients are certified as eligible for 18 months and then must recertify eligibility.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 13,625 (electric)

Residential Essential Service (RES)

Residential Essential Service (RES) is a winter discount program offered to low-income customers of the Washington Gas utility.

Benefits (FY2005)

This program offers discounted gas rates to eligible customers from November through April. The discounts range from \$142 to \$189 per year and are based on increasing levels of therm discounts according to income level. RES participants received therm rates of \$0.5754 cents per therm, as opposed to the \$0.7651 cents per therm charged to non-RES customers. A client is certified to participate in the RES program for one year and then must reapply.

Funding (FY2005)

Total: \$1,800,000

Utility surcharge: \$1,800,000

The program is funded through the Natural Gas Trust Fund, financed by a surcharge on natural gas residential customer bills of \$0.0055 per therm.

Eligibility (FY2005)

Residential LIHEAP-eligible customers (household incomes at or below 150% of federal poverty guidelines) of Washington Gas who use gas for their principal source of heating are eligible for assistance. Eligibility is established each year on a first-come, first-served basis at the D.C. Energy Office. Participants in the program must reapply for certification each year.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 8,311

Seasonal, Health-, and Income-Related Disconnection Policies

Seasonal

The District of Columbia Public Service Commission prohibits disconnection of residential electric or natural gas service for nonpayment when the National Weather Service forecasts that the temperature at that location will be 32°F or below for that calendar day.

Health

The Commission requires that utilities delay for up to 21 days disconnection of residential service if the customer provides a physician's certificate or notice from a public health official stating that disconnection would be detrimental to the health and safety of the customer or permanent household resident. The customer is also required to enter into a deferred-payment plan. Disconnection may be delayed for an additional 21 days by renewal of the certificate or notice.