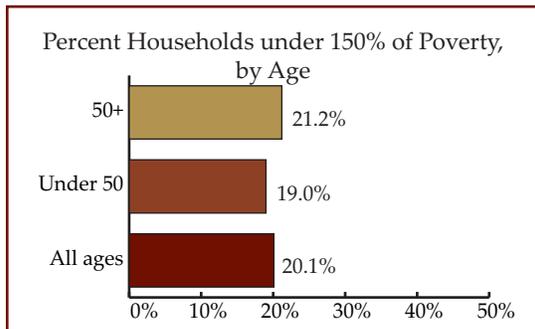


Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

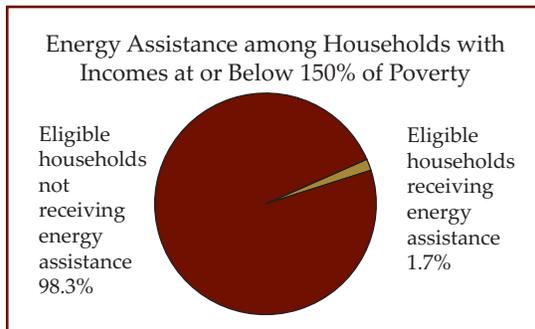
Florida

Florida in Brief (2006)

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Total state population: | 18,089,888 |
| State median income: | \$58,605 |
| Percent households age 50+: | 50.7% |

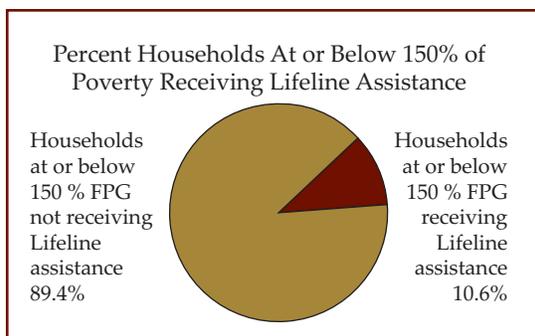


Energy Assistance



Telephone Assistance

Telephone penetration rate in state: 92.1%



Telephone Assistance

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

Lifeline

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

Benefits (2006)

Maximum monthly credit: \$13.50

Basic federal support: \$8.25

State support: \$3.50

Federal match: \$1.75

Funding (2005)

Federal: \$17,465,583

State: \$6,355,986 (est.)

Local telephone companies recover the cost of providing the state portion of this benefit (\$3.50 per subscriber) in the rates they charge non-Lifeline subscribers for basic local telephone service.

Eligibility (2006)

To receive Lifeline assistance, state residents must certify under penalty of perjury that they either have household incomes at or below 135% of poverty or are enrolled in any of the following programs:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Medicaid
- Federal public housing, Section 8
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Food stamps
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- National School Lunch
- Bureau of Indian Affairs programs, including Tribal TANF and Head Start

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: 151,333

Participation rate: 12.5% (based on 135% of 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: \$316,350

Eligibility (2006)

Eligibility requirements are the same as for Lifeline.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 13,409

Energy Assistance

Energy assistance programs in Florida 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 Florida with a block grant to help eligible

low-income households meet their immediate home energy needs. With this grant, Florida distributes payments under three categories of assistance: crisis heating, crisis cooling, and noncrisis assistance. The state also uses a portion of the grant to supplement funding for Florida's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

Benefits (FY2006)

- Crisis heating: \$300 maximum per household
- Crisis cooling: \$300 maximum per household
- Noncrisis heating: \$150 maximum per household
- Noncrisis cooling: \$150 maximum per household

Customers 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. All components of Florida's LIHEAP program are available year-round.

Funding (FY2006)

Total: 54,070,916

Federal: \$54,070,916

Tribal set-aside: \$6,802

Regular net block grant: \$26,527,472

One-time additional net block grant: \$23,001,621

Total emergency/cont.: \$255,871

FY2005 carryover funds: \$1,763,286

Department of Energy funds for weatherization: \$2,515,864

The Florida Department of Community Affairs distributes grants to community action agencies, local governments, and nonprofit agencies throughout the state. These agencies accept applications, determine eligibility, notify clients, and make payments to energy providers and clients. In addition, the department allocates 6% of the state's LIHEAP grant to the Department of Elder Affairs to serve persons over 60 years of age.

The Department of Elder Affairs contracts with local Area Agencies on Aging to provide energy assistance to this population.

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

Florida allocates LIHEAP funding in the following manner:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Heating assistance: | 14% |
| Cooling assistance: | 22% |
| Crisis assistance: | 29% |
| Weatherization: | 15% |
| Administration, etc.: | 20% |

Eligibility (FY2006)

State residents with household incomes at or below 150% of poverty are eligible for assistance. Participation in Florida's LIHEAP program does not reduce the client's eligibility or benefits under other state programs.

Participation (FY2005)

Households served by program component:

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Noncrisis Heating | 25,057 |
| Cooling | 41,875 |
| Crisis | |
| Heating | 22,879 |
| Cooling | 34,829 |

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

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

Benefits (FY2006)

Maximum benefit per household: \$5,652

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

- 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: \$11,172,084

Federal: \$11,172,084

Department of Energy: \$2,592,639

Additional LIHEAP funds: \$8,579,445*

*Included in LIHEAP funding numbers.

The Florida Department of Community Affairs distributes grants to 30 local service providers, including community action agencies, urban leagues, county governments, and nonprofit housing agencies throughout the state. These agencies accept client applications, determine eligibility, and provide weatherization services, which include performing energy audits and installing energy efficiency measures.

Eligibility (2006)

Households at or below 150% of poverty are eligible for assistance. Preference is given to households living in owner-occupied housing, households with elderly and/or disabled persons, households with children age 12 and under, and households with a high energy burden.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 1,400

Seasonal, Health-, and Income-Related Disconnection Policies

Florida does not have state-mandated disconnection policies in these areas.