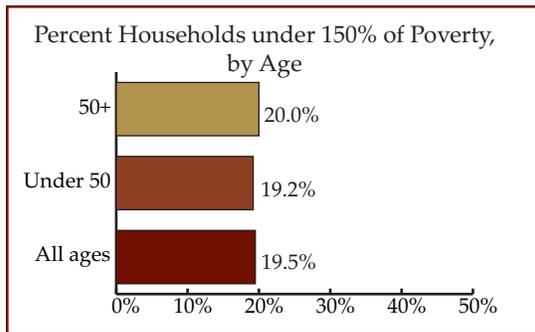


Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

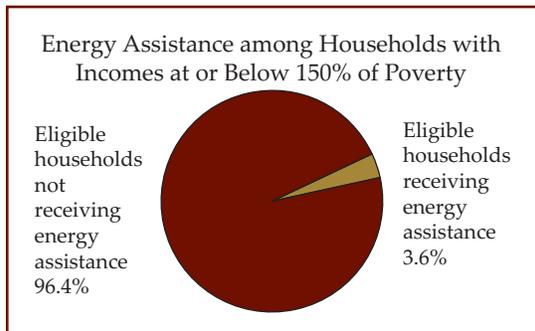
Georgia

Georgia in Brief (2006)

Total state population:	9,363,941
State median income:	\$62,294
Percent households age 50+:	40.6%

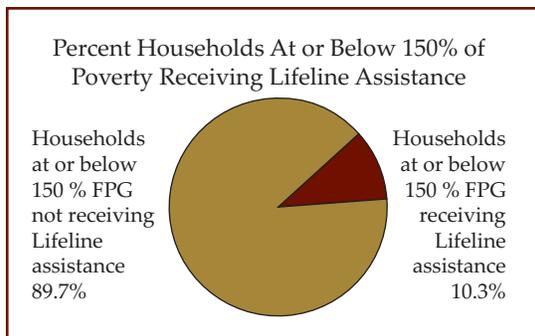


Energy Assistance



Telephone Assistance

Telephone penetration rate in state: 89.5%



Telephone Assistance

Lifeline and LinkUp are the primary sources of telephone assistance for low-income households in Georgia.

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
 Maximum state support: \$3.50
 Maximum federal match: \$1.75

Funding (2005)

Federal: \$8,166,837
 State: \$2,898,210 (est.)

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

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:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Food stamps
- Medicaid
- Senior citizen low-income discount plan offered by the local gas or power company

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

Participation (2005)

Households served: 69,005

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

Participation rate: 10.3% (based on 150% of federal poverty guideline)

LinkUp

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

Benefits (2006)

LinkUp subscribers receive the following:

- A credit of \$30 or a 50 percent reduction in the charges customers pay for connecting to new telephone service, whichever is less
- 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: \$210,580

Eligibility (2006)

Eligibility requirements are the same as for Lifeline.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 8,671

Energy Assistance

Energy assistance programs in Georgia include the following:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)—Regular Energy Assistance Program
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
- Low-income senior citizen discounts

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)—Regular Energy Assistance Program
The federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides the state of Georgia with a block grant to help eligible low-income households meet their immediate home energy needs. With this grant, Georgia distributes payments for heating assistance. The state also uses a portion of the

grant to supplement funding for the state's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

Benefits (FY2006)

Heating: \$220 maximum per household

Cooling: \$220 maximum per household

Crisis: \$220 maximum per household

Clients receive a benefit once a year, paid to the energy provider. Heating assistance is available from November 1 to April 29, and crisis assistance from November 1 to May 31. Crisis assistance funds can be used for cooling. Georgia employs a one-month early application period for older and home-bound residents.

Funding (FY2006)

Total: \$58,349,327

Federal: \$40,099,327

Regular net block grant: \$20,979,412

One-time additional net block grant:
\$18,190,973

Total emergency/cont.: \$855,734

FY2005 LIHEAP carryover: \$62,432

Leveraging incentive funds: \$10,776

State: \$18,250,000

Public Service Commission: \$ 14,100,000
(from state universal service fund)

Governor's office: \$ 4,150,000

The Georgia Department of Human Resources distributes grants to community action agencies throughout the state. These agencies accept applications, determine eligibility, notify clients, and make payments to energy providers.

Georgia allocates LIHEAP funding in the following manner:

• Heating:	50%
• Crisis:	25%
• Weatherization:	15%
• Administration:	10%

Eligibility (2006)

State residents with household incomes at or below 150 percent of poverty, who pay home energy costs directly, are eligible for assistance.

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

Participation (FY 2005 est.)*

Households served by heating component:
87,006

*Source: LIHEAP Clearinghouse

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
Through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), the U.S. Department of Energy provides Georgia 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 (FY2005)

Maximum benefit per household: \$2,684
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 (FY2005)

Total: \$10,099,384

Federal: \$8,199,384

Department of Energy: \$3,339,105

Additional LIHEAP funds: \$4,860,279

Utility: \$1,900,000

\$1,100,000 (Georgia Power)

\$800,000 (Atlanta Gas Light)

The Energy Division of the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority distributes grants to 21 community action and nonprofit

agencies across the state. These agencies accept applications, determine eligibility, and provide weatherization services, such as performing energy audits and implementing suggested measures.

Eligibility (FY2006)

Homeowners with household incomes at or below 150% of the federal poverty level are eligible for weatherization assistance. Priority is given to elderly or handicapped homeowners. Rental property can be weatherized with a signed agreement from the landlord.

Participation (2005 - 2006)

Households served: 2,517

Low-Income Senior Citizen Discounts

Major gas and electric utilities in Georgia waive their monthly service charge for older low-income homeowners.

Benefits (2005)

Georgia Power and Atlanta Gas Light both offer senior citizens a discount of \$14.00 per month. This discount in essence waives the monthly base charge for Atlanta Gas Light and Georgia Power who meet eligibility requirements.

Funding (2005)

Total: \$22,500,000

State: \$22,500,000

The discounts are funded through a \$0.20 to \$0.24 per month surcharge to customers of Atlanta Gas Light and Georgia Power. The Resource Service Ministries of Atlanta accepts applications for the program. The Georgia Department of Human Resources determines eligibility and informs the utilities of customers who are eligible for the discount.

*Includes \$5,100,000 in relief for eligible Atlanta Gas Light Company (AGLC) customers. Each qualified customer received a one-time \$150 credit to help defray natural gas prices.

Eligibility (2006)

Residents of Georgia age 65 and older who own their own homes and have total household incomes of less than \$12,000 per year for Georgia Power and \$14,355 for Atlanta Gas Light are eligible for assistance.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 90,000

Electric waivers: 55,000 households

Gas waivers: 35,000 households

Health, and Income-Related Disconnection Policy

Seasonal

Between November 15 and March 15, Georgia prohibits disconnection of residential electric or natural gas service whenever the National Weather Service forecasts that the temperature at that location will be 32°F or below during a 72-hour period beginning at 8 a.m. on the date of the proposed disconnection. During the winter protection period, utilities are prohibited from disconnecting residential service if a customer agrees in writing to a deferred payment plan and adheres to the arrangement.

Health

Georgia requires natural gas and electric utilities to delay for 30 days—or the duration of the illness, whichever is less—the disconnection of residential service when a medical professional certifies that such an action would result in a decline in the health of the customer or other permanent household resident..