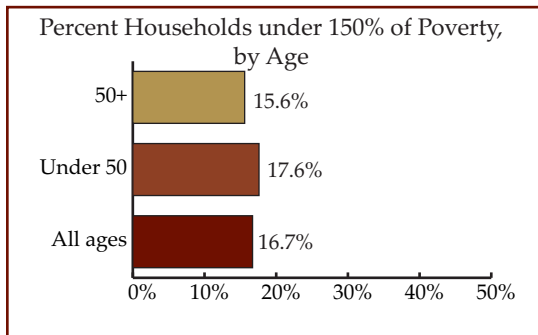


Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

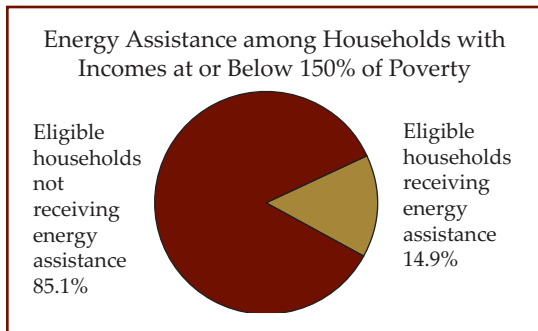
Idaho

Idaho in Brief (2006)

Total state population:	1,466,465
State median income:	\$53,376
Percent households age 50+:	46.9%

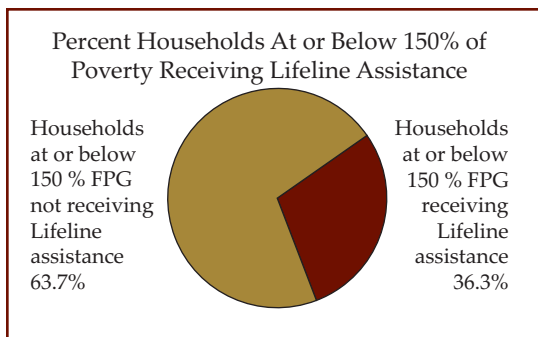


Energy Assistance



Telephone Assistance

Telephone penetration rate in state: 95.7%



Telephone Assistance

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

Lifeline

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

Benefits (2005)

Maximum monthly credit: \$13.50

Basic federal support: \$8.25

State support: \$3.50

Federal match: \$1.75

Funding (2005)

Federal \$3,776,261*

State: \$1,334,650*

* Source: State staff

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 complete an application with their local telephone provider and prove that their household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guideline.

Beneficiaries must recertify on a periodic basis to remain eligible for this program.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 31,943**

Participation rate: 30.6% (based on 135% of the federal poverty guideline)

**Source: State staff. All participants and funding numbers provided are estimated or averaged.

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

Link-Up

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% 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: \$21,783**

Eligibility (2006)

Eligibility requirements are the same as for Lifeline.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 1,535**

** From state staff. All participant and funding numbers provided are estimated or averaged.

Energy Assistance

Low-income energy assistance programs in Idaho include the following programs:

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

LIHEAP—Energy Assistance Program

The federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides the state of Idaho with a block grant to help eligible low-income households meet their immediate home energy needs. With this grant, Idaho 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 (FY2005)

Heating and crisis: \$575 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. Heating and crisis assistance are available from December 1 to May 31, with an early application period for older and disabled residents.

Funding (FY2006)

Total: 18,418,214

Federal: \$14,668,214

Tribal set-aside: \$593,721

Regular net block grant: \$11,641,642

Additional one-time block grant:
\$2,031,414

Total emergency/cont.: \$401,437

State: \$3,750,000

State general fund appropriation:
\$3,750,000

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare contracts with local community action agencies (CAAs) throughout the state to accept applications and determine eligibility for LIHEAP. The department makes payments to energy providers and clients.

Idaho allocates LIHEAP funding in the following manner:

- Heating and crisis: 85%
- Weatherization: 15%

Eligibility (FY2006)

State residents with household incomes at or below 150 percent of poverty are eligible for assistance. Households with disabled or senior (over 60) members, as well as those with at least one child under six years old, are given priority.

Participation (FY2005)

Households served by program component:

Heating: 26,609

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

Winter/year-round crisis:	5,753
Weatherization:	1,397

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)—Idaho Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Families

Through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), the U.S. Department of Energy provides Idaho 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: \$ 2,826

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: \$ 4,420,968

Federal: \$3,797,361

Department of Energy: \$2,076,784

Additional LIHEAP funds: \$1,720,577

Other Funds: \$623,607

Petroleum violation escrow: 123,607 ¹

Bonneville Power Authority: \$414,606 ²

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare distributes grants to nine Community action agencies throughout the state. These agencies accept applications, determine eligibility, and provide weatherization services, including performing energy audits and implementing suggested measures.

¹ This is the amount of accumulated funds over the prior two years that was made available for 2006. A minimal amount (\$16,000) of funding was expected for FY2007.

² Funding provided for the period beginning October 1, 2005 was \$414,606.

Eligibility (FY2006)

Persons with household incomes at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for this program. Potential participants must apply in person at local administering agencies, providing proof of income, citizenship, and residence.

Participation (2004)
Households served: 1,395

Seasonal, Health, and Income-Related Disconnection Policies

Seasonal

Idaho prohibits regulated utilities from disconnecting natural gas or electric service to residential customers between December 1 and February 28 if the household includes children under age 18, persons who are infirm, or persons age 62 or older.

Health

Idaho requires natural gas and electric utilities to delay for up to 30 days disconnection of residential service for nonpayment 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.

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

Deferred Payments

Idaho prohibits utilities from disconnecting residential service to customers who agree to a deferred payment arrangement. Customers may be offered participation in the Winter Payment Plan but no customer is required to participate. Utilities cannot disconnect services of Plan participants between November 1 and March 31. Monthly payments under the Winter Payment Plan are half the amount required under the state's Level Payment Plan