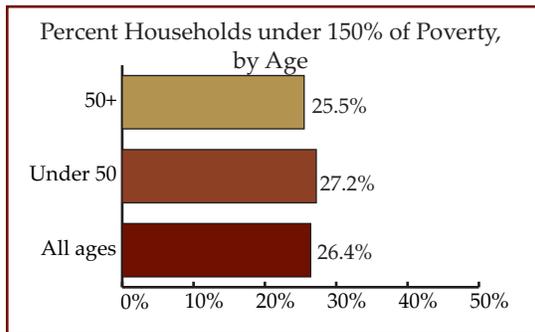


# Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

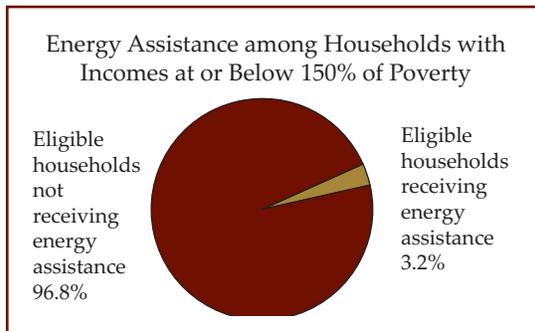
## Louisiana

### Louisiana in Brief (2006)

Total state population:	4,287,768
State median income:	\$50,529
Percent households age 50+:	47.5%

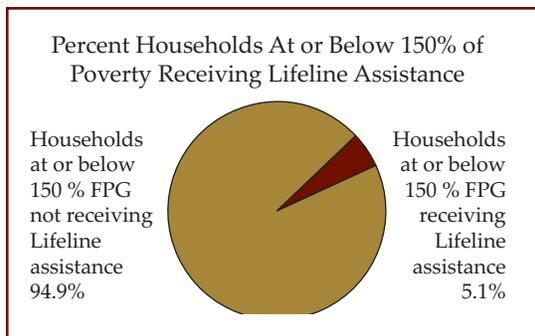


### Energy Assistance



### Telephone Assistance

Telephone penetration rate in state: 95.2%



### Telephone Assistance

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

#### 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: \$2,055,784

State: None

#### Eligibility (2006)

To receive Lifeline assistance, state residents must complete an application with their local telephone provider and prove that they have household incomes at or below 135% of the federal poverty guideline, or that they are enrolled in any of the following programs:

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

Beneficiaries must notify their telephone provider when they are no longer eligible for assistance.

#### Participation (2005)

Households served: 22,195

Participation rate: 5.7% (based on 150% of the federal poverty guideline)

## Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

# Louisiana

### 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: \$51,657

### Eligibility (2006)

Eligibility requirements are the same as for Lifeline.

### Participation (2005)

Households served: 2,594

## Energy Assistance

Low-income energy assistance programs in Louisiana 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 Louisiana with a block grant to help eligible low-income households meet their immediate home energy needs. With this grant, Louisiana distributes payments under two categories of assistance: heating and cooling. The state also uses a portion of the grant to supplement funding for Louisiana's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

### Benefits

Heating: \$390 maximum per household  
Cooling: \$390 maximum per household

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. All assistance under Louisiana's LIHEAP program is available year-round.

### Funding (FY2006)

Total: \$17,805,439

Federal: \$17,805,439

Net block grant: \$17,144,187

Emergency/cont.: \$661,252

The Louisiana Housing Finance Agency distributes grants to community action agencies (CAAs) and government bodies (police juries) throughout the state. These agencies accept applications, determine eligibility, notify clients, and make payments to energy providers and clients.

Louisiana allocates LIHEAP funding in the following manner:

- |                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| • Cooling/heating assistance: | 75% |
| • Weatherization:             | 15% |
| • Administration, etc.:       | 10% |

The heating and cooling components are operated as one year-round program. There is no crisis program, but emergency funds are used for cooling.

### Eligibility (FY2006)

State residents with household incomes at or below 150% of poverty are eligible for LIHEAP assistance. Additionally, households are eligible if one or more members receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), SSI, food stamps, or certain veterans' benefits.

### Participation (2005)

Households served by program component:  
Heating: 11,514

## Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

### **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)**

Through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), the U.S. Department of Energy provides Louisiana 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: \$2,741  
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: \$4,145,052

Federal: \$4,145,052

Department of Energy: \$1,997,309

Additional LIHEAP funds (FY2004):  
\$2,147,743

The Louisiana Housing Finance Agency distributes grants to community action agencies and police juries (local government agencies) throughout the state. These agencies accept applications, determine eligibility, and provide weatherization services, such as performing energy audits and implementing suggested measures.

#### **Eligibility (FY2006)**

State residents with household incomes at or below 150% of poverty, or receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), SSI, food stamps, or certain veterans' benefits are eligible for assistance. Priority is given to households containing elderly persons, disabled persons, and children.

#### **Participation (2005)**

Households served: 526

### **Seasonal, Health-, and Income-Related Disconnection Policies**

#### **Health**

Louisiana delays for up to 63 days disconnection of residential electric or natural gas service for nonpayment if a medical professional certifies in writing that such an action would be detrimental to the customer's health or safety. The customer is required to negotiate a deferred-payment plan with the utility before the scheduled disconnection date.