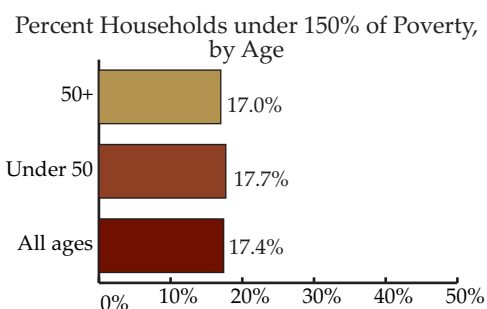


Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

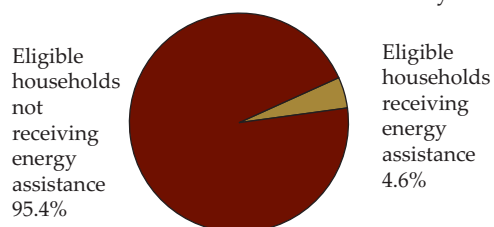
Nevada

Nevada in Brief (2006)

Total state population:	2,495,529
State median income:	\$63,005
Percent households age 50+:	43.9%

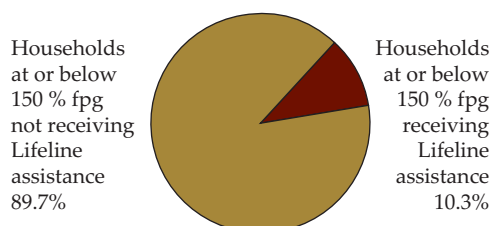


Energy Assistance among Households with Incomes at or Below 150% of Poverty



Telephone penetration rate in state: 92.6%

Percent Households At or Below 150% of Poverty Receiving Lifeline Assistance



Telephone Assistance

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

Lifeline

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

Benefits (2004)

Maximum monthly credit: \$11.10

Basic federal support: \$8.25

State support: \$1.90

Federal matching: \$0.95

Funding (2005)

Federal: \$3,975,804

State: \$1,819,062 (est.)

State funding is provided through a 0.021% surcharge on end-user revenues of all intrastate telecommunications providers. Funds are collected through the Nevada Universal Service Fund (NUSF). Telecommunications providers are allowed to pass the costs of the NUSF through to all non-Lifeline customers as a separate line charge on their monthly bill.

Eligibility (2006)

To receive Lifeline assistance, state residents must complete an application with their local telephone provider and prove that they have a household income that is at or below 150% of the federal poverty guideline, or prove they are enrolled in any of the following programs:

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

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

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

Participation (2005)

Households served: 43,311

Participation rate: 27.4% (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: \$116,794

Eligibility (2006)

Eligibility requirements are the same as for Lifeline.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 6,926

Energy Assistance

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

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)—Nevada Energy Assistance Program (EAP)
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
- Welfare Set-aside for Emergency Assistance
- Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)—Nevada Energy Assistance Program (EAP)

The federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides the Nevada Energy Assistance Program (EAP) with a block grant to help eligible low-income households meet their home energy needs. With this grant, and monies from the ratepayer-funded Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation, EAP distributes payments under three categories of assistance: heating, cooling (or a combination of both), and crisis.

Benefits (FY2006)

Average annual benefit:

Heating/cooling: \$830

Crisis: \$700 maximum for households within 75% of poverty

Benefits are based on household income and annual energy usage. 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. Eligible households may elect to have their benefit paid to their heating or cooling provider, or split between the two.

Funding (FY2006)

Total: \$15,842,508

Federal: \$7,246,691

Regular net block grant: \$3,808,981

One-time additional net block grant: \$3,302,717

Total emergency/cont.: \$134,993

State: \$8,595,817

Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation Universal Energy Charge: \$8,595,817

Heating and cooling assistance as well as crisis assistance are available from July 1 through June 30, or until funds are exhausted, and include an early enrollment period for applicants who are

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

elderly (age 60 and older) or disabled, and for families with children six years or younger.

The Nevada State Energy Assistance Program accepts applications, determines eligibility, notifies clients, and makes payments to energy providers and clients.

Nevada allocates LIHEAP funding in the following manner:

Heating assistance:	73%
Crisis assistance:	2%
Administration, carryover, etc.:	25%

Eligibility (FY2006)

State residents with household incomes at or below 150% of poverty are eligible for assistance.

Participation (FY2006)

Households served: 17,252

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

Through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), the U.S. Department of Energy provides Nevada 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. This program also receives monies from the ratepayer-funded Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation.

Benefits (FY2005)

Maximum benefit per household: \$4,000

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: \$6,056,197

Federal: \$937,546

Department of Energy (DOE): \$937,546

State: \$5,118,651

State utility: \$2,800,000

Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and

Conservation: \$2,318,651

The Housing Division of the Nevada Department of Business and Industry distributes grants to five nonprofit or government agencies in Nevada. These agencies accept applications, determine eligibility, and provide weatherization services, such as performing energy audits and installing the various weatherization measures.

Eligibility (FY2005)

State residents with household incomes at or below 150% of poverty are eligible for assistance. Households may be eligible, regardless of income, if a member receives any of the following types of assistance:

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Households with elderly residents, individuals with disabilities, and families with children are given priority.

Participation (FY2005)

Households served: 994 (including households served with DOE funds only)

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

Nevada

Welfare Set-aside for Emergency Assistance

The Welfare Set-aside for Emergency Assistance provides emergency services to low-income households so the individuals do not become homeless. Funds may be used to provide rental and utility assistance, security deposits for rent and utilities, mortgage assistance, and motel vouchers for clients lacking a fixed nighttime residence.

Benefits (FY2006)

Energy-related assistance provided through this program includes payments to utilities to prevent service interruptions and utility deposits for clients needing assistance during move-in.

Funding (FY2006)

Total: \$1,760,892

State: \$1,760,892

Welfare set-aside allocation: \$1,582,500

Funding for utilities/deposits: \$178,392

The Welfare Set-aside for Emergency Assistance program is funded through a 15% portion of the State Account for Low-Income Housing Fund. The low-income fund is supported with a real property transfer tax of \$0.10 for each \$500 of value or fraction thereof. Approximately 11% of the welfare set-aside program's total funding was spent on low-income energy-related activities.

Eligibility (FY2006)

Households with incomes at or below 60% of the state's median income are eligible for assistance.

Participation (2006)

Households served: 684 households received assistance with utilities/deposits (not all agencies have reported to date)

Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation

Supported by the universal energy charge, a state-mandated line-item charge on monthly gas and electric bills, the Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation helps low-income

households pay their energy bills and insulate and weatherize their homes.

Benefits (2006)

Nevada statute directs the Welfare Division to provide bill payment benefits that are sufficient to reduce the percentage of a participating household's income spent on natural gas and electricity to the median percentage of household income spent on natural gas and electricity statewide. The benefits are provided as part of LIHEAP and weatherization assistance benefits

Funding (2006)

Total: \$10,000,000 (projection)

State: \$10,000,000 (projection)

Nevada established universal energy charges of 3.30 mills on each therm of natural gas and 0.39 mills on each kWh of electricity a retail customer purchases. The monthly fees average about \$0.16 on the typical residential gas bill and about \$0.43 on the typical residential electric bill.

The Nevada State Welfare Division, which administers the fund, receives 75% of all revenue raised, and uses these funds in conjunction with LIHEAP funds to assist eligible households in paying for natural gas and electricity. The remaining 25% is distributed to the State Housing Division and combined with federal weatherization funding to administer programs of energy conservation, weatherization, and energy efficiency for eligible households.

Eligibility (2006)

State residents with household incomes at or below 150% of the federal poverty guideline are eligible for assistance.

Participation

Reflected in LIHEAP and weatherization participation numbers.

Seasonal, Health-, and Income-Related Disconnection Policies

Nevada prohibits utility disconnections in cases of extreme weather; that is, when temperatures are below 15°F or above 105°F.

Health

Nevada has no cold weather disconnection policy; however, the state requires utilities to delay disconnecting residential service for up to 30 days if a licensed physician or other public health official certifies that such an action would be dangerous to the health of the customer or a household member and would constitute a medical emergency. The customer is required to certify in writing that he or she is only able to pay the bill in installments. The utility is then required to allow up to 90 days for the customer to pay the delinquent balance. A medical certificate may be renewed once for an additional 30-day period.

Deferred Payments

Utilities are required to postpone disconnection of residential service if the customer agrees in writing to a payment plan in which the customer pays the overdue amount within 90 days and in four equal installments, the first installment being due on the day the agreement is signed.