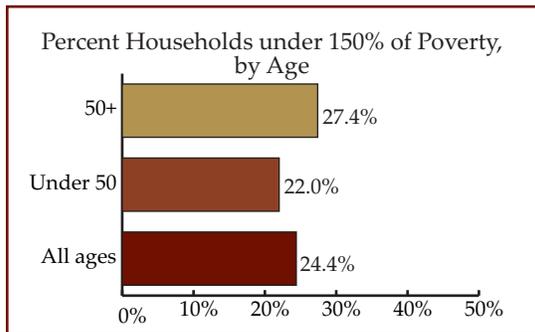


Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

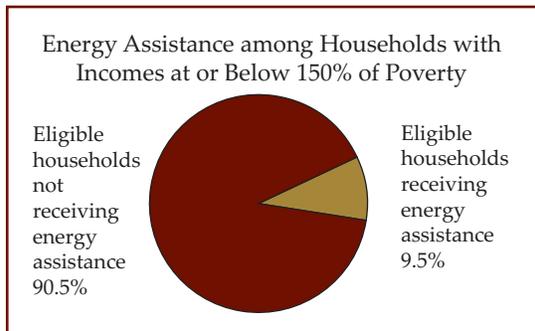
North Carolina

North Carolina in Brief (2006)

Total state population:	8,856,505
State median income:	\$56,712
Percent households age 50+:	46.0%%

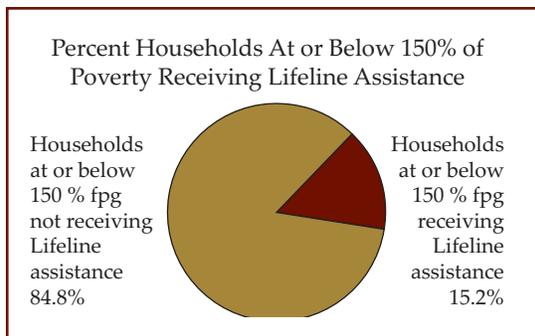


Energy Assistance



Telephone Assistance

Telephone penetration rate in state: 93.2%



Telephone Assistance

Lifeline and Link-up are the primary sources of telephone assistance for low-income households in North Carolina.

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: \$14,375,394

State: \$5,214,972

State funding for Lifeline is provided through state tax credits.

Eligibility (2006)

State residents enrolled in any of the following programs are eligible for Lifeline assistance.

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

The majority of Lifeline/Link-Up participants are enrolled through state and federal agencies that administer the above qualifying programs:

Participation (2005)

Households served: 124,166

Participation rate: 23.6% (based on 110% of the federal poverty guideline)

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

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% 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: \$118,402

Eligibility (2006)

Eligibility requirements are the same as for Lifeline

Participation (2005)

Households served: 5,571

Energy Assistance

Low-income energy assistance programs in North Carolina include the following:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)—Low-Income Energy Assistance program (LIEAP)
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)—Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)

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

through its Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). In addition, there are three other categories of assistance: crisis assistance through the Crisis Intervention Program, the Heating and Air Repair and Replacement Program (HARRP), and the Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

Benefits (FY2005)

Heating: \$57 average benefit per household

Crisis: \$300 maximum per household (\$600 if the state receives emergency contingency funds during the year)

(HARRP: \$2,200 average)

Weatherization: \$2,744 average (as part of the WAP program)

Heating Assistance

Clients receive a cash payment in February to help pay their heating bill.

Crisis Intervention Program

The Crisis Intervention Program primarily provides vendor payments to state residents facing a heating or cooling emergency.

Heating and Air Repair and Replacement Program (HARRP)

Program contractors evaluate, repair or replace primary heating and air systems. This program is operated in conjunction with the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) Program contractors conduct energy audits, identify and install energy efficiency measures and health and safety measures.

Funding (FY2006)

Total: \$79,242,745

Federal: \$71,842,745

Tribal set-aside: \$657,597

Regular net block grant: \$36,318,661

Additional one-time net block grant:

\$31,491,432

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Total emergency/cont.: \$3,375,055

State funds: \$7,400,000

The manner in which North Carolina allocates LIHEAP funding varies from year to year. For FY 2006, the funding was allocated as follows:

- Heating assistance: 41%
- Crisis assistance: 29.5%
- Weatherization (HARRP and WAP): 19.8%
- Administration, etc.: 10%

Eligibility (FY2006)

Heating assistance—Most food stamp households and other applicants with household incomes at or below 110% of poverty and resources at or below \$2,200 are eligible.

Crisis Intervention—

State residents who are experiencing or are in danger of experiencing a heating- or cooling-related crisis and have household incomes at or below 150% of poverty are eligible.

HARRP—State residents with household incomes at or below 150% of poverty are eligible. However, priority is given to eligible applicants who are disabled, elderly, or living with small children.

The county offices of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services accept applications for the heating assistance program during a two-week period in November and mail benefit checks in February. County offices also accept applications and authorize benefits for the Crisis Intervention Program.

Participation (FY2005)

Households served by program component:

- Heating: 211,959
- Winter/Year-Crisis: 54,509
- HARRP: 1,884

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

Through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), the U.S. Department of Energy provides North Carolina 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 average benefit per household: \$2,744
Weatherization technicians conduct 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: \$11,274,636

Federal: \$6,862,081

Department of Energy: \$2,799,730

Additional LIHEAP funds: \$4,062,351

State: \$4,412,555

State appropriation: \$3,100,000

Petroleum violation escrow: \$1,312,555

The Office of Economic Opportunity of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services distributes grants to 33 community action, local government, and nonprofit agencies. These agencies accept applications, determine eligibility, and provide

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

North Carolina

weatherization services, such as performing energy audits and installing required measures.

Eligibility (FY2006)

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

Participation (2005)

Households served: 3,996

Seasonal, Health, and Income-Related Disconnection Policies

Seasonal

From November 1 through March 31, utilities in North Carolina must seek approval of the Public Utilities Commission before disconnecting residential natural gas or electric service to households with elderly or disabled residents and households found eligible for the Energy Crisis assistance program or other similar programs.

Deferred Payments

North Carolina requires utilities to offer residential customers in danger of having utility service disconnected for nonpayment a deferred payment arrangement, and prohibits disconnection if the customer accepts and abides by the arrangement.