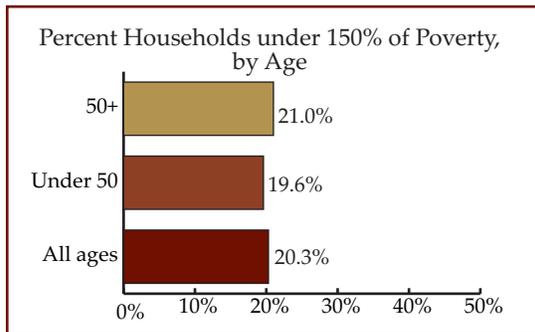


# Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

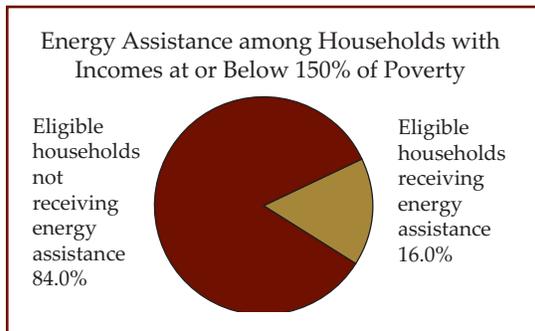
## North Dakota

### North Dakota in Brief (2006)

Total state population:	635,867
State median income:	\$57,092
Percent households age 50+:	49.1%

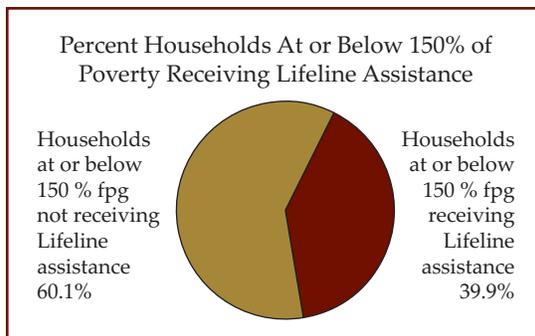


### Energy Assistance



### Telephone Assistance

Telephone penetration rate in state:	95.4%
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### Telephone Assistance

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

#### 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: \$3,652,147

State: \$912,870 (est.)

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 they are enrolled in any of the following programs:

- Public assistance
- Food stamps
- Energy assistance
- Medicaid

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

#### Participation (2005)

Households served: 21,735

Participation rate: 47.7% (based on 135% 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: \$148,106

### Eligibility (2006)

Eligibility requirements are the same as for Lifeline.

### Participation (2005)

Households served: 4,903

## Energy Assistance

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

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)—North Dakota Energy Assistance
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

### Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)—North Dakota Energy Assistance

The federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides the state of North Dakota with a block grant to help eligible low-income households meet their immediate home energy needs. With this grant, North Dakota distributes payments under three categories of assistance: heating, furnace and chimney cleaning, and emergency

assistance. The state also uses a portion of the grant to supplement funding for North Dakota's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

### Benefits (FY2006)

Under the North Dakota Energy Assistance Program, heating and crisis benefits have no set maximums. The amount of the grant depends on income, household size, energy cost, fuel type, and other factors.

Clients receive one heating 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. In some cases clients may be reimbursed for bills they have already paid to their fuel provider for heating fuel purchased since the beginning of the heating season. Heating assistance is available from October 1 to May 31, with an early enrollment period for older and/or disabled residents.

Households eligible for LIHEAP are also eligible to have their chimneys and furnaces inspected and/or cleaned.

Emergency assistance may consist of payment for fuel, temporary shelter, furnace repair or replacement, and emergency repair or purchase of essential residential heating or cooling devices such as water heaters or space heaters.

### Funding (FY2006)

Total: \$25,274,309

Federal: \$25,274,309

Tribal set-aside: \$3,415,737

Regular net block grant: \$12,174,120

One-time additional net block grant:  
\$2,124,319

Total emergency/cont.: \$6,369,413

FY2005 LIHEAP carryover funds: \$1,190,720

County offices of the Department of Human Services accept applications, determine eligibility, notify clients, and make payments to energy providers and clients.

North Dakota allocates LIHEAP funding in the following manner:

## Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

- Heating, cooling, and crisis assistance: 65%
- Weatherization: 15%
- Administration, etc.: 20%

### Eligibility (FY2006)

In North Dakota, state residents with household incomes at or below 135% of the state median income are eligible for LIHEAP. North Dakota also uses an assets test to determine the financial eligibility of clients for LIHEAP. The program gives preference to elderly and disabled applicants.

### Participation (FY2005 est.)

Households served by program component:  
Heating: 15,800

### Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

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

Average benefit per household: \$2,900  
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: \$4,984,605  
Federal: \$4,984,605

Department of Energy: \$2,589,151  
Additional LIHEAP funds: \$2,395,454

The North Dakota Department of Services, Division of Community Services, distributes grants to seven community action agencies, which 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 60% of the state median income are eligible for assistance. Households may only receive weatherization services once, unless technological advances give rise to materials or methods that significantly increase energy efficiency when applied and, therefore, justify reweatherization.

### Participation (FY2006)

Households served: 1,454

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

### Health

North Dakota does not have a winter disconnection policy. However, utilities are required to delay residential disconnections for nonpayment by up to 30 days if the customer advises the utility that a dangerous health condition exists in the household, or that the customer is either over 65 years old or disabled.

### Seasonal

The state requires utilities to offer residential customers in danger of having their service disconnected for nonpayment the opportunity to enter into a deferred-payment agreement. Customers who do so cannot have their service terminated.