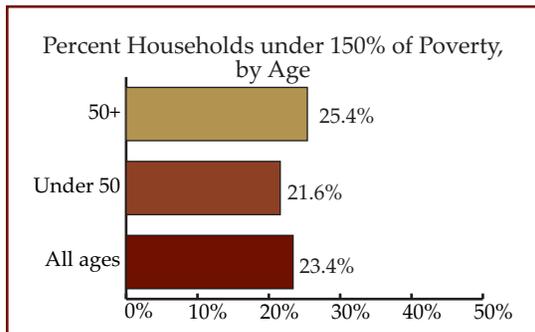


Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

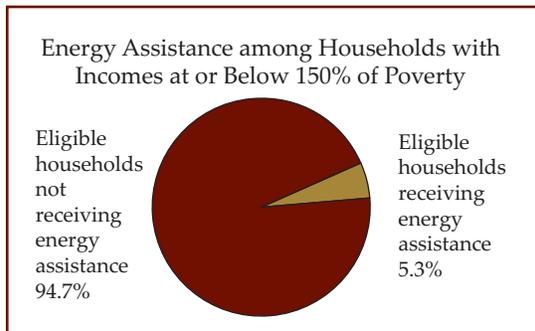
South Carolina

South Carolina in Brief (2006)

Total state population:	4,321,249
State median income:	\$56,433
Percent households age 50+:	47.5%

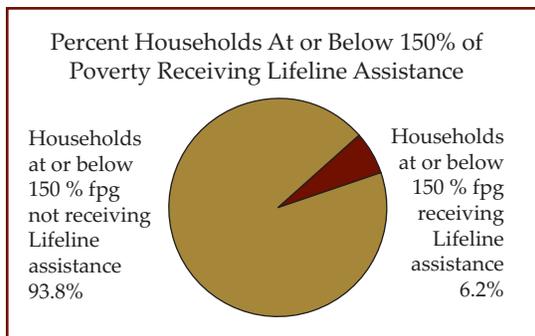


Energy Assistance



Telephone Assistance

Telephone penetration rate in state: 92.9%



Telephone Assistance

Lifeline and Link-Up are the primary sources of telephone assistance for low-income households in South 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: \$2,826,105

State: \$997,668 (est.)

Local telephone companies recover the cost of providing the state portion of this benefit (\$3.50 per subscriber) from the South Carolina State Universal Service Fund, currently funded by a monthly end-user surcharge of 2.9%.

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:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Food stamps
- Medicaid

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

Participation (2005)

Households served: 23,754

Participation rate: 7.7% (based on participation in the federal Medicaid, SSI, and food stamp programs)

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

South Carolina

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: \$52,791

Eligibility (2006)

Eligibility requirements are the same as for Lifeline.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 2,968

Energy Assistance

Low-income energy assistance in South Carolina includes the following programs:

- 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 South Carolina with a block grant to help eligible low-income households meet their immediate home energy needs. With this grant, South Carolina distributes payments under two categories of assistance: direct assistance, which includes heating and cooling assistance, and crisis assistance, provided through the Emergency Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP). The state also uses a portion of the grant to

supplement funding for South Carolina's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

Benefits (FY2006)

Direct assistance: \$300 maximum per household

Crisis (ECIP): \$500 maximum per household

During 2006, eligible households may receive direct assistance twice during the program year; once for home heating assistance and once for cooling assistance. If the household is served twice under direct assistance, the household cannot be assisted by the Emergency Crisis Intervention Program. Assistance is contingent upon the availability of funds.

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 assistance is available from October 15 to February 28; crisis assistance is available year-round.

Funding (FY2006)

Total: \$43,926,567

Federal: \$40,419,594

Regular net block grant: \$13,318,359

One-time additional net block grant: \$11,548,175

Total emergency/cont.: \$412,083

Weatherization funding: \$1,997,754

Department of Energy: \$1,982,643

Community services block grant: \$9,686,563

Emergency shelter: \$1,474,017

Private/charitable funds: \$3,003,500

Project Share*: \$503,473

*Utility customers of South Carolina Energy and Gas (SCE&G), Duke, and Progress Energy donate funds to help eligible households pay their utility bills.

The South Carolina Division of Economic Opportunity distributes grants to community action agencies (CAAs) throughout the state. These agencies accept applications, determine eligibility, notify clients, and make payments to energy providers and clients.

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

A portion of the LIHEAP funding is used to supplement funding for South Carolina's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP—a program designed to increase home energy efficiency.

South Carolina expended 2005 LIHEAP funding in the following manner:

Direct assistance:	62%
(heating)	(43%)
(cooling)	(19%)
Emergency crisis:	13%
Weatherization:	15%
Administration, etc.:	10%

Eligibility (FY2006)

Households with total income at or below 150% of poverty are eligible for LIHEAP assistance. Participation in South Carolina's LIHEAP program does not reduce the client's eligibility for benefits under other state assistance.

Participation (program year 2005)

Households served by program component:	
Winter heating:	20,002
Summer cooling:	8,744
Emergency crisis:	17,531

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

Through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), the U.S. Department of Energy provides South 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 burden, and improve health and safety.

Benefits (program year 2006)

Maximum benefit per household: \$5,652
Weatherization technicians use priority measures and energy audit techniques 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

The South Carolina Office of Economic Opportunity distributes grants to nine community action agencies for all the 46 counties throughout the state. These agencies provide and process applications, determine eligibility, and deliver the abovementioned weatherization services.

Funding (FY2006)

Total:	\$3,980,397
Federal:	\$3,980,397
Department of Energy:	\$1,982,643
Additional LIHEAP funding:	\$1,997,754

The South Carolina Division of Economic Opportunity distributes grants to nine community action agencies throughout the state. These agencies accept applications and provide weatherization services, such as performing energy audits and implementing suggested measures. The department determines eligibility and notifies clients.

Eligibility (program year 2006)

Households with incomes at or below 150% of the federal poverty threshold are eligible for weatherization assistance. Households with elderly or disabled members, households with children under age 18, and high-energy-burden households are given preference.

Participation (program year 2004)

Households served: 1,149

Seasonal, Health-, and Income-Related Disconnection Policy

Seasonal/Health

Between December 1 and March 31, South Carolina requires natural gas and electric utilities to delay disconnection of residential natural gas or electric service for up to 31 days, if a medical professional certifies that disconnection of service would adversely affect the health of the customer or a permanent household member. A medical certificate can be renewed up to three times during the winter protection period.

Deferred Payments

Before disconnecting residential service for nonpayment, natural gas and electric utilities are required to provide customers with an opportunity to enter into a deferred-payment arrangement. The utility is prohibited from disconnecting service whenever a customer accepts and adheres to such an arrangement.