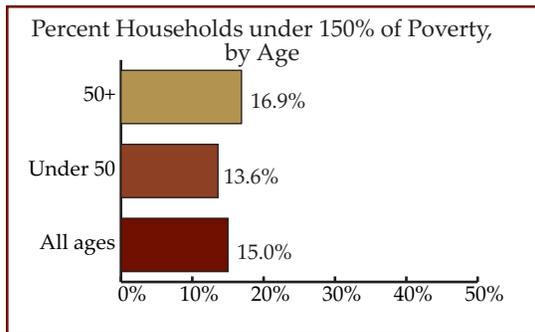


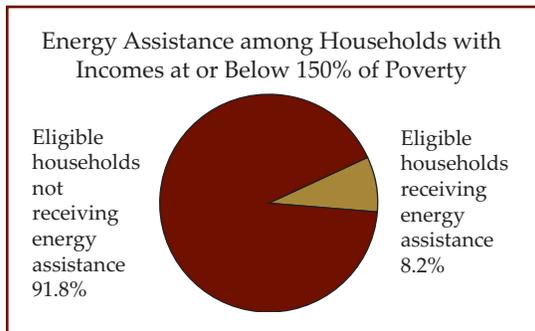
Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States Virginia

Virginia in Brief (2006)

Total state population:	7,642,884
State median income:	\$71,697
Percent households age 50+:	44.1%

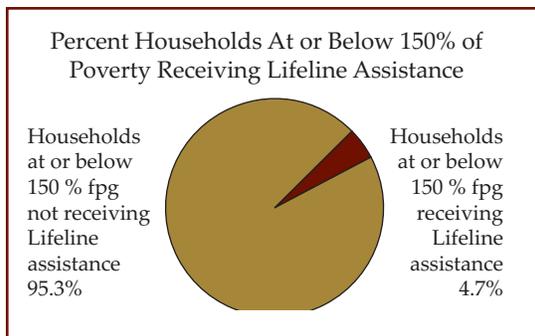


Energy Assistance



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 Virginia.

Lifeline (Universal Service Plan)

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

Benefits (2005)

Maximum monthly credit: \$13.50

Basic federal support: \$8.25

State support: \$3.50

Federal match: \$1.75

Funding (2005)

Federal: \$2,208,977

State: \$846,300 (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:

- Food stamps
- Medicaid

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

Participation (2005)

Households served: 20,150

Participation rate: 6.9% (based on participation in the federal Medicaid program)

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

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: \$55,148

Eligibility (2006)

Eligibility requirements are the same as for Lifeline.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 2,311

Energy Assistance

Energy Assistance

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

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

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

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

three categories of assistance: fuel, crisis, and cooling. The state also uses a portion of the grant to supplement funding for Virginia's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

Benefits (FY2006)

Fuel: \$311 average per household

Cooling: \$950 maximum per household, which includes maximum benefit for security deposit (\$200), electricity payment (\$200), and air conditioner purchase (\$550)

Crisis: \$2,200 maximum per household, which includes maximum benefit for equipment repair/purchase (\$1,700), security deposit (\$200), and primary heat/primary utility (varies maximum approximately \$250–\$300)

Virginia provides financial assistance with heating costs through the fuel assistance component of LIHEAP and payments for energy-related emergencies through the crisis assistance component. The cooling assistance component provides financial payments to qualified households to purchase one portable fan; repair a ceiling, attic, or whole-house fan; purchase one air conditioner; repair central air conditioning unit or heat pump; pay electric security deposits; and pay electric bills. Provision of cooling assistance is contingent on the availability of funds and requires eligible households contain at least one vulnerable household member.

Clients receive one fuel benefit a year. Benefits are paid to the energy provider unless the clients' home energy costs are included in rent, their electricity or gas is provided by a nonparticipating vendor, they have limited storage, or they heat with coal or wood. In these cases, the payment is sent directly to the clients.

Funding (FY2006)

Total: \$75,052,711

Federal: \$75,052,711

Regular net block grant: \$38,165,637

One-time additional net block grant: \$33,092,921

Total emergency/cont.: \$3,794,153

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

The Virginia Department of Social Services accepts applications for LIHEAP in local social services offices throughout the state. The main office mails fuel assistance applications to the prior year's recipients, maintains the energy assistance automated system that determines eligibility through local department's data input, informs clients, and makes fuel assistance payments to energy providers and clients. Local departments of social services input payments through the Energy Assistance Program automated system for crisis and cooling assistance.

Virginia allocates LIHEAP funding in the following manner:

Fuel assistance:	52%
Cooling assistance:	10%
Crisis assistance:	12%
Weatherization:	15%
Administration, etc.:	11%

Cooling assistance has been a regular yearly program but is contingent on the availability of funds.

Fuel assistance application period is the second Tuesday in October through the second Friday in November. Crisis assistance is available from November 1 through March 15 for primary heating security deposit, space heater for temporary use, primary heating equipment repairs or purchases, supplemental equipment and maintenance, and emergency shelter. Crisis assistance is available from the first workday in January through March 15 for the purchase of primary heating fuel or payment of primary heating utility. Cooling assistance is available from June 15 through August 15.

Eligibility (2006)

State residents with household incomes at or below 130% of poverty are eligible for assistance.

Participation (FY2006)

Households served by program component:

Heating:	110,590
Cooling:	39,685

Winter crisis:	17,541
Weatherization:	1,257

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

This program helps low-income residents—especially those 60 years and older, disabled, or living with young children—increase energy efficiency and reduce home heating costs by adding insulation, sealing air leaks, and repairing or replacing heating systems. New program policies soon will allow replacement of old refrigerators and water heaters as well. This program also works to improve health and safety by reducing hazards of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Benefits (FY2006)

Maximum benefit per household: \$2,826

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: \$10,697,080

Federal: \$10,697,080

Department of Energy: \$4,344,862

Additional LIHEAP funding: \$6,352,218

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development distributes grants to 23 community action, nonprofit, and local government agencies throughout the state.

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

Virginia

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 130% of poverty are eligible for assistance. The Weatherization Assistance Program prioritizes services to the elderly, persons with disabilities, and households with children.

Participation (2006)

Households served: 1,036

Seasonal, Health-, and Income-Related Disconnection Policy

Virginia does not have state-mandated disconnection policies related to temperature, health, or income.