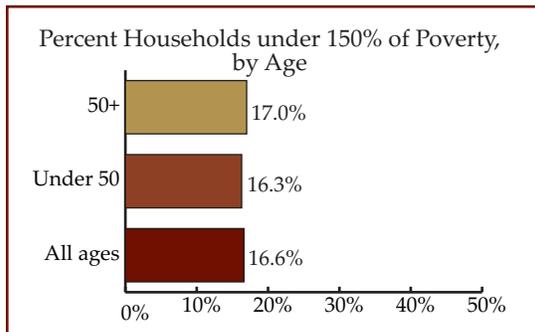


Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

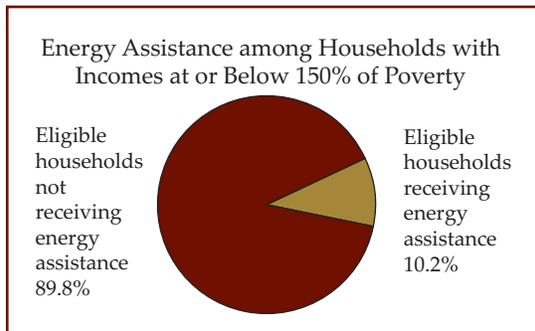
Washington

Washington in Brief (2006)

Total state population:	6,395,798
State median income:	\$69,130
Percent households age 50+:	44.1%

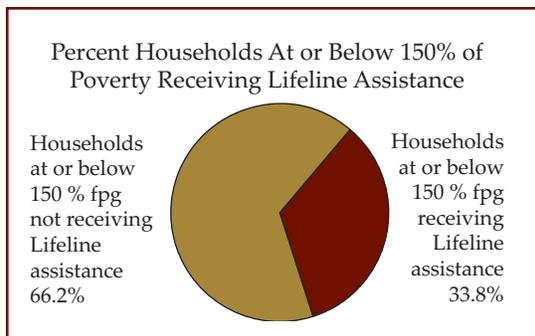


Energy Assistance



Telephone Assistance

Telephone penetration rate in state:	96.1%
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Telephone Assistance

Lifeline and Link-Up are the primary sources of telephone assistance for low-income households in Washington. These programs are collectively known as the Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP).

Lifeline/WTAP

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

WTAP caps the amount a participant pays for local phone service. The current cap is \$4 a month.

Funding (2005)

Federal:	\$16,946,094
State:	\$5,878,152 (est.)

Funding at the state level is provided through a \$0.13 surcharge, approved by the legislature, on every telephone line in the state of Washington. The amount of the surcharge, which appears on local telephone bills, varies from year to year depending on program demand, but cannot exceed \$0.14 per subscriber per month.

All money collected from the surcharge is transferred to a telephone assistance fund administered by the Department of Social and Health Services. Local telephone companies charge the fund for expenses incurred in providing WTAP, including administrative expenses and the revenue loss for reducing monthly rates and service connection fees for beneficiaries.

Eligibility (2006)

To receive Lifeline assistance, state residents must complete an application with their local

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

telephone provider and prove they are enrolled in any of the following programs.

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- State Family Assistance (SFA)
- Food assistance
- General assistance
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medical assistance
- Refugee assistance
- DSHS chore services
- Community Options Program (COPES)

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) verifies eligibility on behalf of the customer at the request of the local telephone provider.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 139,956

Participation rate: 37.5% (based on 135% of the federal poverty guideline)

Link-Up/WTAP

Qualified customers receive a discount on the price of installing new telephone service.

Benefits (2006)

LinkUp/WTAP subscribers receive the following:

- A 50% discount on service connection fees (state benefit), plus a credit of \$30 or a 50% reduction in service connection fees, whichever is less (federal benefit).
- 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: \$1,845,225

State: \$260,988

All money collected from the surcharge is transferred to a telephone assistance fund administered by the Department of Social and Health Services. Local telephone companies charge the fund for expenses incurred in

providing WTAP, including administrative expenses and the revenue loss for reducing monthly rates and service connection fees for beneficiaries.

Eligibility (2006)

Eligibility requirements are the same as for Lifeline.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 47,348

Energy Assistance

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

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

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

The federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides the state of Washington with a block grant to help eligible low-income households meet their immediate home energy needs. With this grant, Washington distributes payments through its Energy Assistance Program, which includes two categories of assistance: heating and emergency services. The state also uses a portion of the grant to supplement funding for Washington's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

Benefits (FY2006)

Heating: \$750 maximum per household

Emergency services: \$3,000 maximum per household¹

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.

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

Heating assistance is available from October 1 through June 30; crisis services are available from October 1 through at least March 15.

Funding (FY2006)

Total: \$44,858,170

Federal: \$38398170

Regular net block grant: \$36,051,507

One-time additional net block grant:
\$443,529

Total emergency/cont.: \$776,538*

2005 FY carryover: \$421,961

Leveraging incentive funds: \$371,635

One-third of REACH grant : \$333,000

State: \$6,460,000 (one time appropriation)

The program is funded through a federal block grant and \$7,600,000 (\$6,460,000) for energy assistance and \$540,000 for weatherization) appropriated from the state public service revolving fund. The Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development distributes federal and state energy assistance funds to 27 local community action agencies. These agencies accept applications, determine eligibility, notify clients, and make payments to energy providers and clients. The State of Washington Department of Social and Health Services provides client information, outreach, and income verification services to the community action agencies for their clients.

Washington allocates LIHEAP funding in the following manner:

- Heating and crisis assistance: 85%
- Weatherization assistance: 15%

¹Local program contractors have the option of adopting a \$2,000 or \$3,000 maximum for crisis repairs and services provided to any one household.

Eligibility (FY2006)

State residents with household incomes at or below 125% of poverty, with at least one member of the household receiving benefits from one of the following federal programs, are eligible for LIHEAP assistance:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Food stamps
- Veterans' and survivors' pension benefits

Participation (FY2005)

Households served by program component:

Heating: 56,484

Winter/year-round crisis: 15,961

Weatherization: 1,733

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

Through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), the U.S. Department of Energy provides Washington 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 expenditure per household: \$4,150

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 window.

Weatherization funds are also used to perform repairs needed to protect the weatherization measures and minor repairs needed to protect the health and safety of the residents.

Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

Funding (FY2006)

Total: \$17,553,546

Federal: \$12,513,546

Department of Energy: \$4,688,820

Additional LIHEAP funds: \$6,114,726

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA):
\$1,710,000

State

Energy Matchmakers Program : \$4,500,000

One-time appropriation: \$540,000

The Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (OCD) receives funding from four sources (see above) for the weatherization program.

The Energy Matchmakers Program increases resources for low-income weatherization by leveraging local matching dollars. The program is funded primarily by state capital budget funds and matching funds from utilities, landlords, and local governments.

BPA-funded weatherization services are provided to low-income households in electrically heated homes in the service territories of BPA customer utilities. The Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) distributes grants to 26 weatherization service providers, including community action and nonprofit agencies. These agencies accept applications, determine eligibility, and provide weatherization services, such as performing energy audits and implementing suggested measures.

Eligibility

Households with total incomes at or below 125% of the federal poverty guideline are eligible for assistance.

Participation (2005)

Households served: 4,371

Seasonal, Health, and Income-Related Disconnection Policy

Seasonal/Low-Income

Between November 1 and March 31, Washington prohibits disconnection of residential natural gas and electric service for nonpayment if customers are able to fulfill the following requirements:

- Declare an inability to pay a bill and/or required deposit
- Have household income at or below 125% of the federal poverty guideline
- Apply for energy assistance and low-income weatherization assistance
- Pay at least 7% of monthly income each month to utility in addition to one-twelfth of past due amounts accrued from date of application

Health

Washington requires utilities to delay for up to 60 days disconnection of residential service for nonpayment if the utility receives written or verbal notice that a medical emergency exists at the customer's residence. The utility may require the customer to submit written certification from a physician stating that disconnection would aggravate an existing medical condition of a resident of the customer's household.

Deferred Payments

The state also prohibits disconnection of residential service for nonpayment if the customer agrees and adheres to a deferred-payment arrangement offered by the utility.