

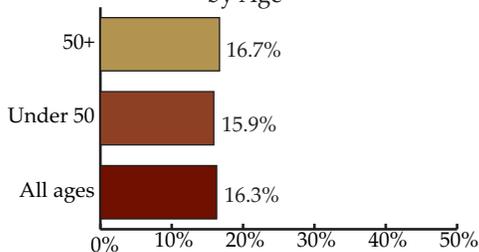
# Energy and Telephone Assistance in the States

## Wyoming

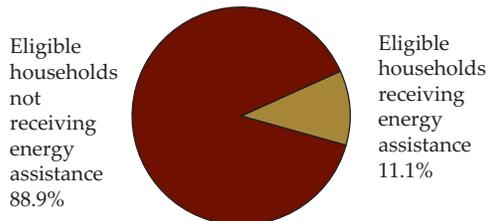
### Wyoming in Brief (2006)

Total state population:	515,004
State median income:	\$56,065
Percent households age 50+:	48.2%

Percent Households under 150% of Poverty, by Age

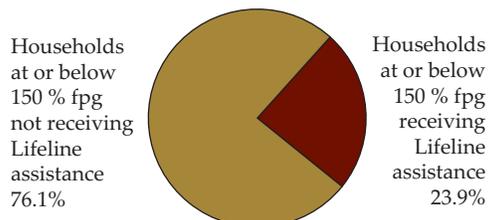


Energy Assistance among Households with Incomes at or Below 150% of Poverty



Telephone penetration rate in state: 94.9 %

Percent Households At or Below 150% of Poverty Receiving Lifeline Assistance



### Telephone Assistance

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

#### Lifeline—Telephone Assistance Program (TAP)

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: \$6.75  
 State support: \$5.00  
 Federal match: \$1.75

#### Funding (2005)

Federal: \$1,063,703  
 State: \$365,000\*

\*Source: National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI), 2004-2005 Universal Service Funding Mechanism Survey

Each eligible local telephone company is authorized to collect a separate monthly surcharge not to exceed \$.20 (most companies charge \$.01) for each residential access line and each business access line (not to exceed 100 lines per customer) to fully recover its cost for providing the state portion (\$5) of this benefit.

#### 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:

- Child Care
- Food stamps
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Programs (LIHEAP)
- Medicaid

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- Minimum Medical Program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Personal Opportunities with Employment Responsibilities (POWER)

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

### Participation (2005)

Households served: 8,030

Participation rate: 15.0% (based on 200% 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 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: \$184,746

### Eligibility

Eligibility requirements are the same as for Lifeline.

### Participation (2006)

Households served: 7,339

## Energy Assistance

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

- 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 Wyoming with a block grant to help eligible low-income households meet their immediate home energy needs. With this grant, Wyoming distributes payments under two categories of assistance: heating and crisis. The state also uses a portion of the grant to supplement funding for Wyoming's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

### Benefits (FY2005)

Heating: Maximum per household benefit varies by fuel type.

\$423 average per household

Crisis: \$400 maximum per household

Clients receive one benefit per 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 landlord. Heating and crisis assistance are available from October 1 to February 28.

### Funding (FY2006)

Total: \$14,990,594

Federal: \$9,115,594

Tribal set-aside: \$210,000

Regular net block grant: \$5,626,106

One-time additional net block grant:  
1,018,369

January emergency/cont.: \$209,808

March emergency/cont.: \$2,051,311

State: \$3,375,000

State appropriation: \$375,000

Wyoming general fund supplemental  
funding: \$3,000,000

The Department of Family Services contracts with a Wyoming Community Action Agency (CAAs) to accept applications, determine eligibility, and notify clients. The State of Wyoming makes payments directly to energy providers for energy costs incurred October through May or until the client exhausts their benefit.

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# Wyoming

For FY 2006, Wyoming allocated LIHEAP funding in the following manner:

Heating Assistance:	70%
Crisis Assistance:	5%
Weatherization:	15%
Program Administration	10%

### Eligibility (FY2005)

Households with total incomes at or below 60% state median incomes with at least one member receiving at least one of the following benefits are eligible for assistance.

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

### Participation (2005)

Households served by program component:

- Heating: 9,550
- Winter/Year-round Crisis: 795
- Weatherization: 281

### Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) (Residential Energy Conservation Assistance Program)

Through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), the U.S. Department of Energy provides Wyoming with a formula distribution grant to help low-income residents—especially those 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)

Average expenditure per household (WAP): \$2,744

Weatherization technicians use energy audits to identify and implement energy-saving measures for each home. Examples of these measures include the following:

- Insulating attic, floors, water heater, exposed pipes, and bellies of mobile homes.
- Tuning, repairing, or replacing the furnace or heating unit, and other combustion appliances in the home
- Providing ventilation fans—including attic 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: \$ 3,100,071

Federal: \$ 2,650,071

Department of Energy: \$ 1,179,511

Additional LIHEAP funds: \$ 1,470,560

State: \$450,000

Petroleum violation escrow fund: \$450,000

The Wyoming Department of Family Services accepts applications, determines eligibility, and provides weatherization services, such as performing energy audits and implementing suggested measures.

### Eligibility (FY2005)

Households at or below or 60% of the state median income (whichever is higher) are eligible for assistance. Priority is given to households with elderly or disabled members, or very young children.

### Participation (2005)

Households served: 700

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

Seasonal

Wyoming prohibits disconnection of natural gas or electric service to residential customers for nonpayment between November 1 and April 30 if any of the following apply:

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The customer can establish a documented inability to pay for services, and:

- The customer has exhausted government assistance, or
- The customer is actively in the process of seeking government assistance, or
- The customer is able to pay for service only by installments

### Health

The state requires utilities to delay for up to 22 days disconnection of residential service for nonpayment if a physician certifies that a member of the household is handicapped or seriously ill. If the physician certifies that a member of the household is on life support, the utility must allow 30 days for the customer to enter into a deferred payment arrangement.

### Deferred Payments

The state requires utilities to offer deferred payment arrangements to residential customers in danger of losing service because of nonpayment. Disconnections are prohibited when customers agree and adhere to such arrangements.