

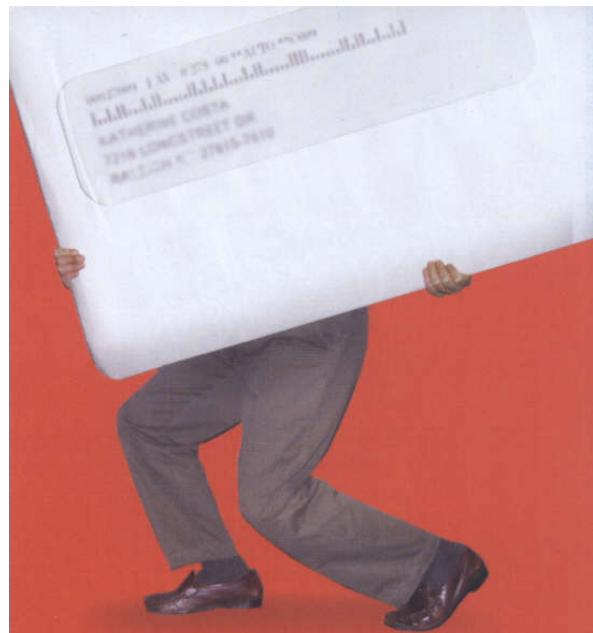
# ENERGY ASSISTANCE IN NEVADA

Eric Witkoski, Consumer Advocate

Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection  
555 E. Washington Ave., #3900  
Las Vegas, NV. 89101  
(702) 486-3194

Bob Cooper, Regulatory Analyst  
100 N. Carson St. Carson City, NV 89701  
(775) 684-1184  
rccooper@ag.state.nv.us

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**Because your  
energy bill shouldn't  
break your back...**



NEVADA  
**energyconnection**

Providing Energy and  
Weatherization Assistance

Made possible by the State of Nevada.

# State Assistance

- State of Nevada assistance for eligible customers (receives 75% of State UEC FUND): low income and do not have excess assets
- Nevada State Welfare Division combines roughly \$8½ million in state energy assistance with \$3½ million in federal energy assistance to help low-income households with their energy costs.
- Nevada's energy assistance funds are shared with the Weatherization Division which gets 25 percent.

# APPLYING FOR ASSISTANCE

- Once each program year, 150% of the poverty level
- Applications - Nevada State Welfare office or by calling toll free 1-866-846-2009, or Welfare Division's website:  
[www.nevadaenergyconnection.nv.gov](http://www.nevadaenergyconnection.nv.gov). or through social service agencies around the State.
- Agencies will also provide assistance in completing and mailing applications to the State Welfare Office.

# Application Details

- The application requests proof of *ALL* income for *EVERY PERSON* in the household for at least the last thirty (30) days, a complete copy of the lease or mortgage statement and copies of recent heating and electric bills.
- Eligibility is based on household size and monthly income. Assistance is then based on that income and the household's annual energy use. Last year's average payment was about \$500.
- Intake sites- include most of the social service agencies that are involved in helping the poor.

# **CONSERVATION MESSAGE**

- \$500 is not expected to meet 100% of a household's energy expenses and therefore the conservation message becomes even more important as we face rising energy prices.

# **OUTREACH MESSAGE**

- There are currently 158,000 eligible low income households in Nevada that are below federal poverty level) and in 2004 less than 20,000 actually received energy assistance from the state.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>(According to the State's 2004 Evaluation of Energy Assistance Programs prepared by Dr. Gil Peach, May 6, 2005)

# Who Currently Receives Assistance?

- 41% of Nevada households receiving assistance have at least one member who is disabled, or elderly (34%), or have a child under the age of 2 years old (9%).
- Nationally, 74% of energy assistance households have incomes below \$15,000 and 50% have incomes below \$10,000. As a result, LIHEAP families pay on average 13% of their family income for total residential energy costs, as, compared to 3% for all other families.
- In a national survey of recipients, 88% of recipients said that LIHEAP has been “very important” in helping meet their needs

# OTHER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

## Southern Nevada

A few social service agencies in Nevada have historically offered modest amounts of energy assistance:

- The **Equal Opportunity Board** in Las Vegas (702-647-3307) has helped with utility bills under its Federal Emergency Management Assistance Grant.

FEMA funds no longer available but will have money starting October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005 from the Low Income Housing Trust Fund (applications will be accepted on the second and third weeks of the month).



# **Henderson Allied Community Advocates ("HACA")**

- Henderson Allied Community Advocates ("HACA") (702) 566-0576, also receives funding from the Low-Income Housing Trust Fund (LIHTF) – in the form of Welfare Assistance Set-Asides administered by Clark County.
- They also receive \$275,000 in grants from the City of Henderson emergency fund for rent and utilities assistance.
- HACA's income eligibility threshold is up to 60% of area median income, which is a higher income threshold than the Welfare Division's.

# Salvation Army

- The Salvation Army in Las Vegas, (702-649-8240), has historically helped customers with disconnect notices, but has run out of funds for this year. Last year the Salvation Army received \$35,000 for utility assistance from FEMA.
- Salvation Army also offers federal food and shelter funding through FEMA and hopes to have funds again by next April.

# REACH

**(Relief through Energy Assistance to prevent Customer Hardships):**

- Project REACH, (702-367-5555) is funded and administered by Nevada Power Company.
- The program, was developed to provide financial assistance to low-income elderly, (disabled, homebound, medically frail - as determined by a licensed medical doctor), who require special heating or cooling needs and who are experiencing severe, uncontrollable or unplanned financial hardships and are unable to pay for their energy needs.
- Program is capped at \$100,000.

# **Northern Nevada**

## **Special Assistance Fund for Energy –(SAFE)**

### **Sierra Pacific Power Co.**

- SAFE (775-834-4444) distributes funds through social service agencies throughout its service territory to help needy families pay their energy bills.
- Donations are matched by Sierra up to \$100,000.
- With the exception SAFE, and Reno's modest Project Restart, last year, there were no social service agencies in northern Nevada that were able to offer financial assistance on energy bills.

# State Weatherization Program

- Weatherization Program of Nevada Housing Division receives about one million dollars in federal funds to complement their \$2.5 million in state funds (25% of UEC) to help low income families improve the energy efficiency of their home. They have a lengthy, state wide waiting list.
- The same toll free number 1-866-846-2009, also works for the Weatherization Division, who can assist low income families with added insulation, weather stripping or, in an emergency, fix a furnace if a low income family is without heat.
- Last year, over 2,000 low income homes were weatherized and about 58% of those families were senior citizens.