



C A F C A

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Connecticut Community Action: Partnerships that work. Results that matter.

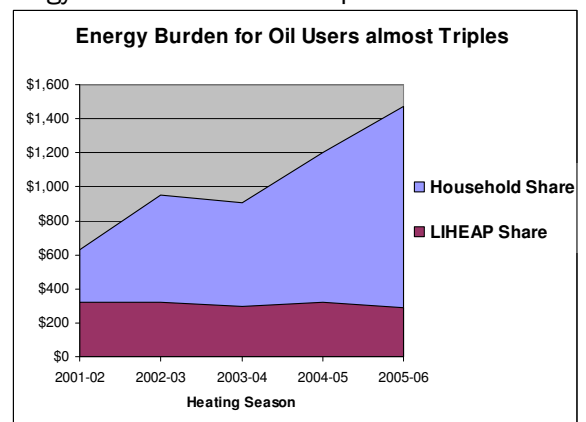
CT's Community Action Agencies are the federally-designated network of anti-poverty agencies in Connecticut. CT CAAs are foundational partners in CT's Human Services infrastructure (HSI) and form a Results-based statewide service delivery system that is your constituents' connection to CT's human service network. CT CAAs achieve positive results that change lives and strengthen communities.

Increase Funding for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

- **LIHEAP is a critical support for the elderly and disabled, but also for working families struggling to reach self-sufficiency:** Federal funding for energy assistance is flat despite significant increases in the cost to heat our homes.

Continued state funding is required to ensure that our low-income residents, especially the elderly and disabled, are not left out in the cold and vulnerable.

- **Energy burden has almost tripled:** President Bush's proposed budget does not provide increased funds for LIHEAP as the purchasing power of LIHEAP has plummeted. Since the 2001-02 winter season the share of heating expenditures covered by the average LIHEAP grant is projected to decrease for heating oil from 50.9% to 19.5%; natural gas from 68.6% to 28.8% and propane from 43.4% to 22.4%.¹



- **The average cost of heating has more than doubled since 2001:** Since the winter heating season 2001-02, the average price of home heating costs for heating oil increased from \$627 to \$1,474, natural gas from \$465 to \$1,000 and propane from \$736 to \$1,286.²



- **Increased funding would support crisis prevention activities for energy assistance customers through Assurance 16.** CT CAAs provide case management services that achieve positive outcomes. Household budgeting classes, energy conservation education, enrolling households in matching payment programs and providing other services to prevent crises before they happen.

A sample of energy assistance-related outcomes reported in FFY 2005 by CAAs:

- **79,290 households** avoided a fuel crisis through energy assistance.
- **11,071 people** decreased their energy usage due to Weatherization or energy conservation services.
- **1,114 people** demonstrated ability to complete and maintain a household budget for over 90 days.

For more detailed information about the work of Community Action, please visit our web site (www.cafca.org) and click on our annual report, *Connecticut Community Action: Getting Results!*

¹ Mark Wolfe, *Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Grants for LIHEAP Decline to Lowest Level in Five Years*, National Energy Assistance Directors' Association, www.neada.org

² Ibid.