

FY 2006 Appropriations Status (as of 11/19/05)

Since full year funding for FY06 was not approved as of September 30, 2005, the end of the federal fiscal year, the Congress passed a continuing resolution November 17 providing for the lesser of the House or Senate spending level through December 17, 2005.

In FY05, Congress provided \$2.18 billion for LIHEAP (\$1.88 billion in regular grant authority and \$297.6 million in emergency funds). No funds were provided for advance funding.

FY06 Key Actions

- The President's Budget request for FY06 would reduce regular grant funding from FY05 levels by \$88 million to \$1.8 billion and emergency fund authority by \$97.6 million to \$200 million, thus reducing total spending by \$186 million.
- The House passed FY06 Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill would increase regular grant funding by \$206 million to \$2.08 billion, but would provide no emergency fund authority, thus reducing total spending by about \$180 million. (6/24/05)
- The Senate passed FY06 Labor, HHS, Education appropriations bill would provide \$1.88 billion in grant funds and \$300 million in emergency funds, about the same level of funding as was provided in FY 05. (10/27/05)
- The House/Senate Conference on Labor, HHS, Educations appropriations agreed to provide \$2.183 billion, about the same level as provided in FY 2005. However, the Conference would increase funding for the regular grant portion of the bill from \$1.88 billion to \$2.0 billion and reduce the emergency funds portion from \$297 million to \$183 million. (11/16/05)
- The House rejected the conference committee by a vote of 209 to 224. (11/17/05)
- The Senate passed by a vote of 66-28 a measure instructing a motion instructing the Senate conferees to treat LIHEAP as emergency spending, thereby adding an additional \$2.2 billion to the spending bill. Assuming that the House would agree to this, then the whole program for the coming year could be quite different. For example, if the Senate agrees to the \$1 billion including the Reconciliation bill, the \$1 billion would be allocated by formula as the base funding and then the \$2.2 billion would go as contingency funds, assuming that we could convince the Administration to release them. Also, that could mean that the \$1.975 billion trigger would not be reached, since most of the funds would be allocated as contingency funds (11/18/05).
- The House Reconciliation bill, but not the Senate Reconciliation bill, provides \$1 billion for LIHEAP that would be allocated through the regular program grant formula. (11/18/05)

The National Energy Assistance Directors' Association (NEADA) has called upon the Congress to increase FY 2006 LIHEAP funding to \$5.1 billion to address rising number of families requesting assistance and increasing energy prices. This is the same level of funding as was authorized by the Energy Policy Act.

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