

**Community Action Directors of Oregon urge you to  
support increasing the Oregon Energy Assistance Program**

*Because no one should be left in the cold.*

**Senate Bill 461**

For many Oregonians, the elements of winter and the potential threat of energy and heat shut-offs is a looming crisis. As cold temperatures and snowy conditions set in, many low-income families are forced to make tough choices -- **pay for housing or groceries; electricity and heat or medicine?**

In 1999, the Oregon Energy Assistance Program was created to assist low-income Oregonians suffering from exceptionally high energy prices and the inability to afford heat and electricity.

While this has given Community Action Agencies the ability to help many families in their community, the need is extremely overwhelming. **Today, current funding will only serve about 23 percent (less than 1 in 4) of the total number of Oregon households that are qualified to receive bill payment assistance.**

To ensure future stability for the Oregon Energy Assistance Program, our goal in Senate Bill 461 is to expand the base from \$10 million to \$15 million. Additionally, we are pursuing an adjustment each year to the per meter charge that is set by the PUC to capture the impact of inflation over time. By adjusting the per meter charge we also capture the change in customer growth over time.

These improvements will significantly enhance our ability to protect low-income Oregonians from high energy costs and the threat of service disconnection. By expanding the program, we will also help bring stability to the market and help keep costs to the system lower for many businesses in Oregon.

**Please support Senate Bill 461**

**For more information, please contact:**

**Phil Donovan (503.522.3023) or Paul Rainey (503.913.8468)  
On behalf of the Community Action Directors of Oregon**