About EESI...

**NON-PROFIT**
Founded in 1984 by a bipartisan Congressional caucus as an independent (i.e., not federally-funded) non-profit organization

**NON-PARTISAN**
Source of non-partisan information on environmental, energy, and climate policies

**DIRECT ASSISTANCE**
In addition to a full portfolio of federal policy work, EESI provides direct assistance to utilities to develop “on-bill financing” programs

**SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES**
Focused on win-win solutions to make our energy, buildings, and transportation sectors sustainable, resilient, and more equitable
...About EESI

**HILL BRIEFINGS**
Video recordings and written summaries of Congressional briefings

**CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS**
Bi-weekly newsletter with all you need to know including a legislation tracker

**SOCIAL MEDIA (@EESIONLINE)**
Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube

**FACT SHEETS**
Timely, science-based coverage of climate and clean energy topics
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

- Block grant, established in 1981
- Bipartisan Support
- Congress appropriates funds annually
  - Not an entitlement program
- Normal federal funding for LIHEAP is about $3.7 billion – enough to serve 6 million households.

The mission of LIHEAP is to assist low income households, particularly those with the lowest incomes that pay a high proportion of household income for home energy, to help meet their immediate home energy needs.
One out of three households helped by LIHEAP went without food for at least one day in the past year.

LIHEAP helps keep our most vulnerable neighbors safe.

#ProtectLIHEAP

Source: 2018 National Energy Assistance Survey
Three out of ten households receiving LIHEAP used their kitchen stove or oven to provide heat.

LIHEAP helps keep our neighbors safe and warm in their homes.

#ProtectLIHEAP

Source: 2016 National Energy Assistance Survey
The $900 million in supplemental funds provided for LIHEAP in the CARES Act are now fully obligated, and have been able to reach only a fraction of those households that need support.

Reflecting the rapidly changing conditions, NEADA estimates that 15 to 20 percent of residential customers are at least 60 days behind on their utility bills.

More than 1/4 of those who lost jobs during the COVID-19 crisis reported skipping or needing to skip a utility bill payment.

Electric and natural gas arrearages were expected to reach $32 billion by the end of 2020, based on an analysis by The National Energy Assistance Directors Association (NEADA).
128 times.
Data makes the go ‘round

- More than 45 million Americans filed for unemployment during the crisis, many of whom remain unemployed or under-employed and are now eligible for LIHEAP
- In some states, 1 in 3 households is behind on utility bills
- 22% of utility customers reported that they had reduced or put off expenses for basic needs like medicine and food in order to pay their utility bills
- More than 60% of U.S. K-12 schools reopened virtually for the 2020-2021 school year, underscoring the importance of energy affordability to education access for millions of children
- 42% of the U.S. labor force is working from home fulltime, with many others suffering job loss or reduction of hours. Access to power is critical to maintaining work for the remaining household member(s)
Shutoff Moratoria

According to the National Energy Assistance Directors Association (NEADA)

- 43 states and DC currently have mandatory shutoff moratoria in place [https://neada.org/wintercovid19moratoriums/](https://neada.org/wintercovid19moratoriums/)

- Patchwork of voluntary moratoria

- Challenge: Customers are still responsible for the bill
Request

- **$10 billion in supplemental LIHEAP funds**
  - **50% for arrearages:** pay off energy debt for 4 million households (source: NEADA)
  - **50% for current bills:** help 7.7 million households stay current on their bills between now and September 30th (source: NEADA)

- **$4.5 billion for LIHEAP proposed by House**
Find your state LIHEAP info sheet

PROTECT LIHEAP IN 2021

Texas By the Numbers

Gross LIHEAP allocation to Texas in 2019
$161,003,678

Texas LIHEAP funding down
12.16%
from FY10 to FY19

# of households eligible for LIHEAP in Texas
2,109,662

# of low-income households that received LIHEAP in Texas
149,352

Only 7.08% of the total eligible population in Texas received LIHEAP in 2019

80.93%
of LIHEAP recipients in Texas have at least one vulnerable member:

- elderly over 60: 42.74%
- disabled: 54.29%
- child under 6: 17.29%

Why Protect LIHEAP Funding?

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides critical home heating and cooling help to millions of vulnerable American families. LIHEAP funding peaked when Congress appropriated $5.1 billion for the program in FY09 and FY10. Since then, funding has fallen by more than one-third. Because of these cuts, one million fewer eligible households receive energy assistance, and average individual grants have been reduced.¹

LIHEAP is not an entitlement.

Unlike entitlement programs, LIHEAP is funded by the annual congressional appropriation process. While states set eligibility rates, federal statute limits household income to a maximum of 150 percent of the federal poverty guideline, or 60 percent of the state median income. For example, 150 percent of the FY00 poverty guideline for a family of three is $31,995.¹ Most LIHEAP recipients earn much less than the maximum thresholds; the latest data show that a typical LIHEAP recipient household had a median income of $3,5 percent of the federal poverty guideline.³

The need for LIHEAP remains high.

In 2018, the national poverty rate was 11.5 percent, and 38.1 million Americans lived in poverty.⁴

LIHEAP prioritizes vulnerable households.

More than 90 percent of LIHEAP recipient households have at least one vulnerable person—a senior aged 60 or older, a child aged 16 or under, or an individual with a disability.⁵

LIHEAP makes the difference.

The Federal Reserve found that nearly half of American families would struggle to pay for an emergency expense costing $400.⁶ LIHEAP frequently meets those exact short-term emergencies and can be the difference between making ends meet or not.

Federal home heating/cooling assistance saves Texas lives.

NEUAC urges Congress to protect LIHEAP funding for FY21.

http://neuac.org/liheap-state-by-state-metrics/
LIHEAP Photos from the Front Lines...
Questions?

Katrina Metzler
Executive Director
National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC)
Cell (call or text): 740-248-9177

kmetzler@neuac.org
http://neuac.org/advocacy
Creating Neighborhood Developers
Andreanecia M. Morris
HousingNOLA Executive Director
HousingNOLA

2019 REPORT CARD

EVALUATION OF PROGRESS

TOWARDS A MORE EQUITABLE NEW ORLEANS
The New Orleans City Council unanimously passed the Smart Housing Mix ordinance!

Senate Bill 109, which extends the foster care age from 18 to 21.
HOUSING IS CENTRAL TO OPPORTUNITY

• Stable and affordable housing is a cornerstone of household financial security and resilience

• Where your housing is located determines many outcomes: school quality, job accessibility, safety and health, and economic mobility

• Housing is increasingly recognized as a critical social determinant of health

• Affordable housing options support collective growth and prosperity of a community

Figure 1: The Factors Impacting Health Outcomes

Source: Adapted from the University of Wisconsin’s County Health Rankings model (2014)
DISCRIMINATION IS ROUTINE

- Overt discrimination against households of color by the government and private sector was legal for most of the 20th century.
- Impacts of these practices are still apparent in residential segregation, disinvestment, and the racial wealth divide.
- COVID has the potential to widen these disparities.
HOMEOWNERSHIP RATES ARE LOWER FOR BLACK AND LATINX FAMILIES THAN WHITE FAMILIES

Source: Census CPS/HVS, ACS 1-Year estimates
BLACK AND LATINX WEALTH ALSO LAGS

- 32% of White, 37% of Black, and 39% of Latinx family assets are derived from housing wealth
- White families have an average of $216K in housing wealth, while Black families have $94K and Latinx families have $130K

Source: Federal Reserve Board, Survey of Consumer Finances, Net Worth by Race/Ethnicity, 2016 Survey
CURRENT FEDERAL SUBSIDIES ARE INSUFFICIENT AND HAVE FAVORED WEALTHY HOMEOWNERS

- Only 1 in 4 renter households that qualify for assistance receive a housing subsidy
- Even after the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the Tax Foundation found that high-income households receive the vast majority of mortgage interest deduction benefit

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2017
RENTERS IN LOUISIANA ARE INCREASINGLY COST BURDENED

Source: U.S. Census ACS 1-Year estimates
What is affordable housing in Louisiana?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MIT LIVING WAGE</th>
<th>COVID UI RATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$23.05</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POVERTY WAGE</th>
<th>RENTAL WAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$10.25</td>
<td>$17.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HousingLOUISIANA is a statewide network of housing practitioners and advocates whose primary goal is to ensure that all Louisiana’s housing needs are met.

Through our statewide network of the nine regional housing alliances in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Houma-Thibodaux, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, Northshore, and Shreveport, we work to better coordinate efforts and build collaboration across the state on housing issues.
A Tale of Two Cities:
Lake Charles & New Orleans
Lake Charles

- Increase permanent and emergency housing opportunities
- Review zoning ordinances that can prevent the development of affordable housing and/or create more affordable housing opportunities
- Recruit more local developers to partner with and commit to affordable housing development
- Increase homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate income renters (Section 8 homeownership program, mobile homeownership as affordable option, Soft Second Programs)
- Set habitability requirements for landlords and the city to abide by, such as a Rental Registry
- Section 8 Reform

**How Much Does It Cost To Live In the Lake Charles Area?**

- $16.10 per hour*
- $33,480 annually*
- $7.25 minimum wage
- $16.77 estimated hourly mean renter wage*

*This data comes from the NLHNC and is based on the average cost of a 2 bedroom home in the Lake Charles Area which is $837
Lake Charles COVID-19 Housing Crisis

RENTAL HOUSING INSECURITY

4,777 renter households that pay at least 30% of their income on rent have lost their jobs due to COVID. With a median rent of $800, the rent gap is $479/month.

The rent gap reflects the difference between the median rent in a parish and 30% of a household’s income if they are receiving state benefits ($74/week for state benefits + 4.33 weeks is a month x 30% = $213). An assumption is made that each household is a single-income household.

19% of rental households are spending more than 30% on housing (rent burdened) AND jobless due to COVID.

The number of rent burdened households at risk of losing their homes due to COVID...

The anticipated monthly rental gap for rent burdened households impacted by COVID...

4,777 $2,288,482

Visit cpx.org for more information

Lake Charles MSA Rental Assistance Estimate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projected Nonfarm Payroll</th>
<th># of Renter Households</th>
<th>$ of Rental Assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>W/Reduced Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2020 (Actual)</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2020</td>
<td>95,800</td>
<td>7,560</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2020</td>
<td>95,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2020</td>
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<td>7,963</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2020</td>
<td>95,000</td>
<td>7,963</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2020</td>
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<td>7,459</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>January 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2021</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>April 2021</td>
<td>97,000</td>
<td>6,955</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2021</td>
<td>97,000</td>
<td>6,955</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2021</td>
<td>97,000</td>
<td>6,955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2021</td>
<td>97,700</td>
<td>6,602</td>
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</table>

Total Rental Assistance Needed Through December 2020 $ 20,106,352
Total Rental Assistance Needed Through July 2021 $ 44,226,107
New Orleans

Implement the Smart Housing Mix
Increase transit-oriented development and density in high transit corridors to offset
Increase African American homeownership opportunities
Invest in sustainable development
Increase support for aging-in-place policies
Establish a centralized system for renter's rights and protections and landlord enforcement
Increase funds to local Housing Trust Fund

How Much Does It Cost To Live In the New Orleans Metro?

|$20.73| $43,120 |
per hour* | annually*

|$7.25| $16.09 |
minimum wage | estimated hourly mean renter wage*

*This data comes from the NLIHC and is based on the average cost of a 2 bedroom home in the New Orleans Area which is $1,078
New Orleans COVID-19 Housing Crisis

RENTAL HOUSING INSECURITY

4,777 renter households that pay at least 30% of their income on rent have lost their jobs due to COVID. With a median rent of $800, the rent gap is $479/month.

The rent gap reflects the difference between the median rent in a parish and 30% of a household’s income if they are receiving state benefits, SNAP/food stamps, and/or EFSP for 26 weeks in a month ($350 = $3,500). An assumption is made that each household is a single-income household.

19% of rental households are spending more than 30% on housing (rent burdened) AND jobless due to COVID.

The number of rent burdened households at risk of losing their homes due to COVID...

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New Orleans MSA Rental Assistance Estimate

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unemployed (1) W/Reduced Income</td>
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<td>Unemployed W/Reduced</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2020 [Actual]</td>
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<td>$1,010,729</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2020</td>
<td>$500,100</td>
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<td>502,224</td>
<td>$1,010,729</td>
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Total Rental Assistance Needed Through December 2020 $153,834,852
Total Rental Assistance Needed Through July 2021 $306,745,807
## Lake Charles & New Orleans

### How Much Does It Cost To Live In the Lake Charles Area?

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<tr>
<td>Minimum Wage</td>
<td>$7.25</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated Hourly</td>
<td>$16.77</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mean Renter Wage*</td>
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*This data comes from the NLIHC and is based on the average cost of a 2 bedroom home in the Lake Charles Area which is $837.

### How Much Does It Cost To Live In the New Orleans Metro?

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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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COVID MAY EXACERBATE DISPARITIES BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

Late or Deferred Mortgage Payments

Late or Deferred Rent Payments

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis analysis of U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Household Pulse Survey (Week 12, July 16-21)
HEIRS’ PROPERTY IS A BARRIER TO INTERGENERATIONAL WEALTH AND DESTABILIZES COMMUNITIES

WHAT IS HEIRS’ PROPERTY?

- Inherited intestate (without a will)
- Heirs are joint owners with undivided interest
- No clear, marketable title
- Vulnerable to disputes and predatory land deals

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- May lead to blight, health and safety concerns, loss of tax revenue, and lower property values
- Disproportionately high among Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and low-income and low-wealth households

Source: Baab, 2011
Statewide Housing Priorities 2020

1. Create designated revenue streams for local and statewide Housing Trust Funds to increase affordable housing production.

2. Increase permanent and emergency housing opportunities with wraparound services for special needs populations, including at-risk youth, people who are mentally ill, homeless individuals, people who were formerly incarcerated, and victims of domestic violence.

3. Create a comprehensive housing strategy that addresses title and succession issues to create more affordable housing.

4. Review zoning ordinances that can prevent the development of affordable housing and/or create more affordable housing opportunities.

5. Education and Community Engagement Around Affordable Housing
Statewide Housing Priorities 2020

6. Recruit more local developers to partner with and commit to affordable housing development.

7. Increase homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate income renters (Section 8 homeownership program, mobile homeownership as affordable option, Soft Second Programs).

8. Increase Homebuyer Education & Financial Literacy opportunities.

9. Ensure that affordable housing does not equate to substandard housing by setting habitability requirements for landlords and the city to abide by, such as a Rental Registry.

10. Section 8 Reform: Procure more funding for Section 8 to open waitlists and invest in more viable housing inventory for Section 8 (HCVP) clients to protect households from losing their vouchers from unavailability of eligible units.
We believe that our communities can provide high-quality, safe and accessible housing that is affordable to individuals and families of all income levels throughout Louisiana

Andreanecia M. Morris
Executive Director, HousingNOLA

www.housingnola.org
www.gnoha.org
www.housinglouisiana.org
Energy Efficiency, Race, Class and Place

Tony Reames, PhD
University of Michigan
Urban Energy Justice Lab
February 19, 2021
Is energy access a basic human right
The State of U.S. Energy Insecurity

Pre-pandemic (2015 RECS)

- Receiving disconnect notice: 2% almost every month, 4% some months, 7% 1 or 2 months
- Keeping home at unhealthy temperature: 2% almost every month, 5% some months, 4% 1 or 2 months
- Reducing or forgoing basic necessities due to home energy bill: 5% almost every month, 9% some months, 6% 1 or 2 months

Source: EIA, Residential Energy Consumption Survey 2015
Distribution of Energy Insecurity by Census Region

No. of Energy Insecure HHs

- US 37.1M
- Northeast 6.2M
- Midwest 7.4M
- West 8.1M
- South 15.4M

Source: EIA, Residential Energy Consumption Survey 2015
The State of U.S. Energy Insecurity

The pandemic has deepened energy insecurity (May 2020)

• Energy insecurity has disproportionately worsened for vulnerable populations
  African American (16 %)
  Hispanic (19 %)
  White respondents (9 %)

• reported difficulty paying an energy bill in the last month

Source: Indiana University
“Where U.S. Energy Policy is concerned, African Americans are proverbial canaries in the mineshaft.”

Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Report, African Americans and Climate Change: An Unequal Burden, 2004
Energy and Race – Consumption vs Efficiency

**Total Consumption (kBtu)**

![Graph showing total consumption by race](image1)

**Energy Use Intensity (kBtu/ft²)**

![Graph showing energy use intensity by race](image2)

Source: EIA, Residential Energy Consumption Survey 2015
Residential Electricity Consumption
Residential Electricity (in)Efficiency
Detroit Heating Consumption v. (in)efficiency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Correlation Heating Consumption</th>
<th>Correlation Heating Inefficiency</th>
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<td>Economic Status</td>
<td>Median HH income</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% HHs below poverty</td>
<td>![↓]</td>
<td>![↑]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>% Less HS diploma</td>
<td>![↓]</td>
<td>![↑]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race/Ethnicity</td>
<td>% White HHs</td>
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<td>![↑]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% African Americans HHs</td>
<td></td>
<td>![↑]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% Hispanic HHs</td>
<td>![↑]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Tenure</td>
<td>% Owner-occupied</td>
<td>![↑]</td>
<td>![↓]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

HHs= Households

Detroit utility shut-off protests, 2012
Estimating Heating Energy Efficiency (National)
Energy Efficient Technology Access and Affordability Disparities

An incandescent truth: Disparities in energy-efficient lighting availability and prices in an urban US county

The Energy Efficiency Funding Donut Hole

Understanding the residential energy efficiency financing coverage gap and market potential.
Conclusions

• Spatial, racial, and socioeconomic disparities exist in residential energy efficiency, affordability, and technology access

• Less energy efficient areas are spatially clustered (place is important)

• Targeted, community-based approaches to energy efficiency support energy justice & may enable more effective implementation of assistance programs

• Community-based approaches recognize the unique characteristics and needs of target communities to overcome participation and technology access barriers
THANK YOU!

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www.urbanenergyjusticelab.com
@tgreames @justurbanenergy
The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) founded in 1980. We act as a catalyst to advance energy efficiency policies, programs, technologies, investments, & behaviors.

Our research explores economic impacts, financing options, behavior changes, program design, and utility planning, as well as US national, state, & local policy.

Our work is made possible by foundation funding, contracts, government grants, and conference revenue.
The problem
Pre-COVID ACEEE Energy Burden Analysis

Energy Burden =
Annual energy bills/Annual income

• E.g., $2,000/$50,000 = 4% energy burden

Annual energy bills include electricity, natural gas, and other heating fuels.

Builds from previous ACEEE research

• 2016 Report: aceee.org/research-report/u1602
• 2018 Report: aceee.org/research-report/u1806
Energy Burden Disparities

- The median energy burden of low-income households is 3 times higher than that of non-low income households.
- The median energy burden of low-income multifamily households is 2.3 times higher than that of other multifamily households.
- The median energy burden of older adults (65+) is 36% higher than the median household energy burden.

- The median energy burden of Black households is 43% higher than that of white (non-Hispanic) households.
- The median energy burden of Hispanic households is 20% higher than that of white (non-Hispanic) households.
- The median energy burden of Native American households is 45% higher than that of white (non-Hispanic) households.
Low-Income Metro Energy Burdens

Median burdens and upper quartile burdens for low-income households in 25 metro areas
What causes high energy burdens?

**Causes**: physical, economic, policy, and behavioral factors

**IMPORTANT**: Low utility rates ≠ affordable energy!
Impacts and Correlations of High Energy Burdens

High burdens correlated with:

• Poorer indoor air quality
• Increased respiratory diseases (e.g., asthma, COPD)
• Increased stress and negative mental health impacts
• Negative impacts on school success
• Perpetuates cycles of poverty
• Increased utility disconnections
• Increased reliance on payday lending

Source: Grist, grist.org/justice/report-black-households-spend-almost-50-percent-more-on-utilities-than-white-households/
COVID and energy insecurity - a new urgency

As temperature drops and virus cases climb, groups file for new Missouri utility disconnection moratorium

A Pandemic and Surging Summer Heat Leave Thousands Struggling to Pay Utility Bills

High unemployment, stay at home orders and rising temperatures due to climate change are fueling energy insecurity and furthering the need for assistance.

Energy justice is racial justice

An estimated 205 million Americans are at risk of utility disconnection. Here's how you can get help

By Lauren Lee, CNN
Updated 2:57 PM ET, Thu November 12, 2020
Energy efficiency as an environmental justice strategy

“I’m convinced that the best and most equitable way to address climate change is to push energy efficiency into every corner of our economy....I would challenge anyone to find an energy solution that answers so many of our challenges. Doubling down on energy efficiency for everyone isn’t just the right thing to do, it’s the smart thing to do.”

Paula Glover, President, Alliance to Save Energy

How does energy efficiency fit in?

- Long-term solution to high burdens and more affordable housing
- Can help address energy and health equity
- Provide bill savings for households
  - Can lower burdens by 25% and save households up to $400/year
- Additional benefits such as health and job creation

Image from Drehobl and Ross (2016)
[aceee.org/research-report/u1602](http://aceee.org/research-report/u1602)
Common health stressors in homes include:

- Chemical: Formaldehyde, Carbon, Monoxide, Other VOCs, Particulates, Radon
- Physical: Humidity, Condensation, Extreme Heat, Extreme Cold, Dust & Allergens, Mold
- Biological: Pests, Bacterial agents

Weatherization measures help to...

- Filter and Circulate Air
- Regulate Indoor Moisture and Temperature
- Strengthen Barriers to Outdoor Triggers

This reduces or prevents health issues like...

- Asthma attacks
- COPD
- Bronchitis
- Nasal allergies
- Colds, rhinitis
- Headaches
- Heart disease
- Hypertension
- Sinusitis
- Fatigue
- Anxiety & stress
- Other mental illness
- Lung cancer

And leads to...

- Reduced financial burden and stress from energy and medical bills
- Fewer ER trips, physician visits, and premature deaths
- Fewer days of school or work lost
- Improved comfort and safety

Source: ACEEE
National policy solutions
Energy efficiency as an economic recovery and climate strategy

*Near- and long-term benefits*

• Creates jobs now
• Reduces greenhouse gas emissions for years to come
• Immediate savings for consumers and businesses and promotes long-term affordability
• Supports energy and housing justice
• Improves public health
Opportunities for federal action

• Federal aid bill(s) should include funding for energy efficiency investments, targeted at indebted, overburdened households and inclusive workforce training

• Bill assistance/utility debt relief should be paired with energy efficiency and weatherization

• State and utilities need better data and should be encouraged to identify and provide opportunities to increase access to energy efficiency, bill assistance, and other support for indebted customers who are at-risk of shutoffs
Opportunities for federal action

• Increase support for the Weatherization Assistance Program
• HOPE4HOMES: Implement new U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and state rebate programs for home energy upgrades and also contractor training/workforce development
  • Incentives doubled households with income less than 80% of area medians
• Multifamily programs: Fund energy upgrades to low- and moderate-income multifamily housing
• Support affordable financing to help households pay costs not covered by grant; include consumer protections
• Tax incentives for manufactures of heat pumps and heat pump water heaters to make them more accessible
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