



Texas Ratepayers' Organization to Save Energy

The Role of Legal Services in Helping Low-Income Energy Consumers

**How Many ~~Lawyers~~ Advocates Does it Take?
As Many as Possible
Carol Biedrzycki**

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You've Got to Play to Win

- **If no one speaks, up there is no issue**
- **Consumers and low-income consumers are outnumbered**
- **If you don't ask, you won't get anything**



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Perseverance Matters

- In for a penny in for a pound.
- If you are there when it's over you should have something to show for your efforts.



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National Overview

- 2006 \$1.8 billion utility LIHEAP leverage
- 87% of the \$1.8 billion spent in states where legal service offices advocate the program
- Legal services plays a key role in 31 of 44 states where utilities leverage LIHEAP



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Programs Policies

- Rate Reductions
- Energy Efficiency Programs
- Disconnection Moratoria
- Fee Waivers
- Energy Efficiency Codes and Standards



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Successful Texas ROSE Alliances

- Texas Legal Services Center
- Texas Association of Community Action Agencies
- National Consumer Law Center



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Besides Lawyers You Need

- Clients
- Technical Experts
- Funding



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Potential Partners

- **Energy Assistance & Weatherization Providers**
- **Utility Commissions**
- **State Anti-poverty Agencies**
- **Local Community Action Agencies**
- **Press and Legislators**
- **Affordable Housing Advocates**



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Form Alliances

- **Two heads are better than one.**
- **You can never be too rich.**
- **The squeaky wheel gets the grease.**
- **Arrive early, be loud, stay late.**



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Future Questions

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