



***2008 National Energy & Utility Affordability Conference***

***Denver, Colorado***

# New Jersey SHARES

New Jersey SHARES(NJS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1998 to assist our neighbors who have fallen behind on their natural gas and electric utility bills due to a temporary financial crisis.

A financial crisis can happen to anyone regardless of age, income, or household situation. NJS helps those who do not qualify for other energy assistance programs. Households that are receiving LIHEAP and NJ Universal Service Fund credits are not eligible for the NJS program. NJS partners with 159 community based organizations and legislative offices offering 213 intake sites across the state.

***Celebrating 10 years of providing solutions for our neighbors in need.***



# NJS Programs

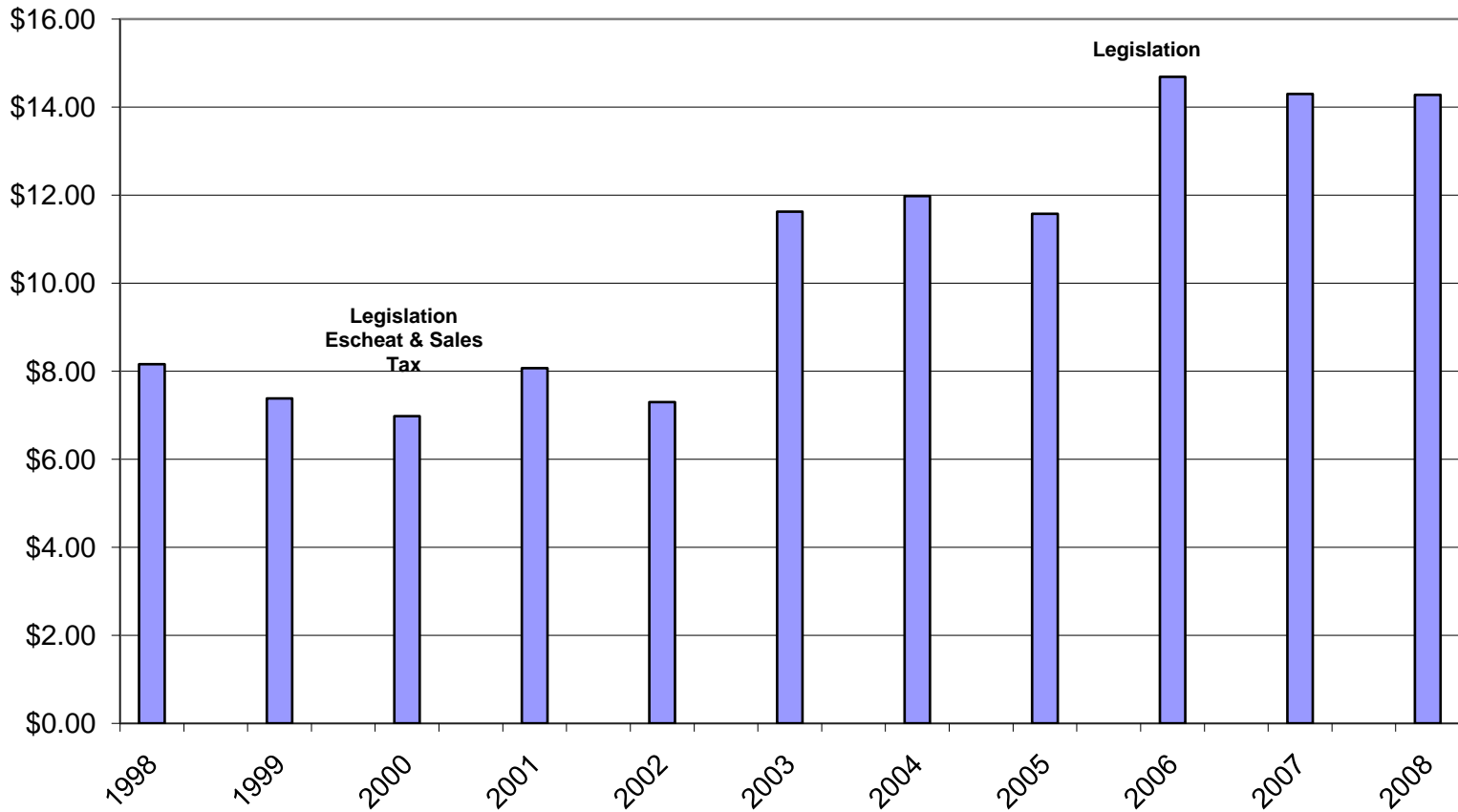
- NJS is the statewide energy fund assisting natural gas and electric customers throughout NJ. We partner with all of the regulated energy utilities in NJ.
- NJS provides statewide outreach and client services for the Verizon NJ Communications Lifeline Program.
- NJS assists United Water Company residential customers experiencing a temporary financial crisis in nine states.



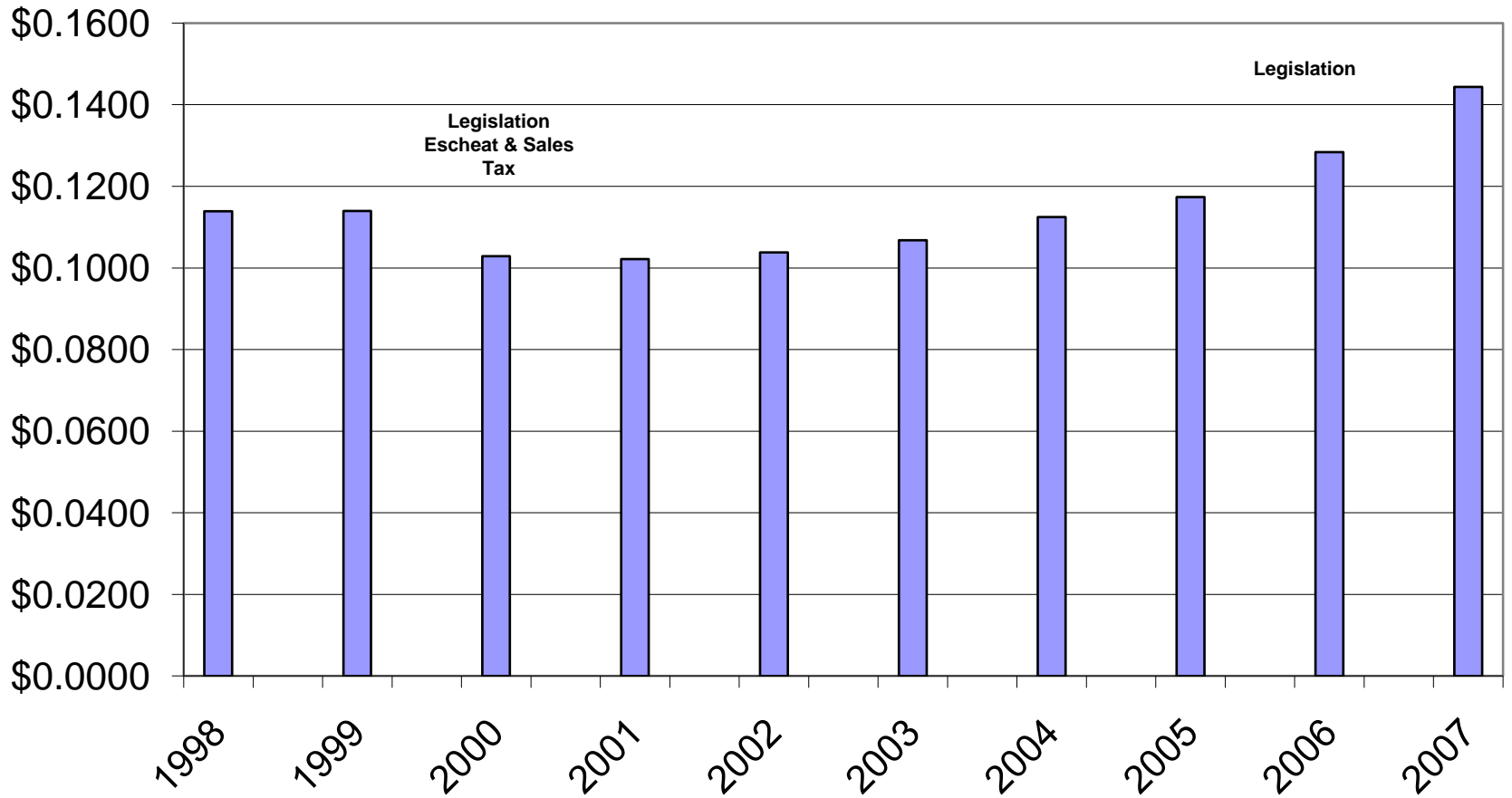
# NJ Natural Gas Residential Price

## US Energy Information Administration Data

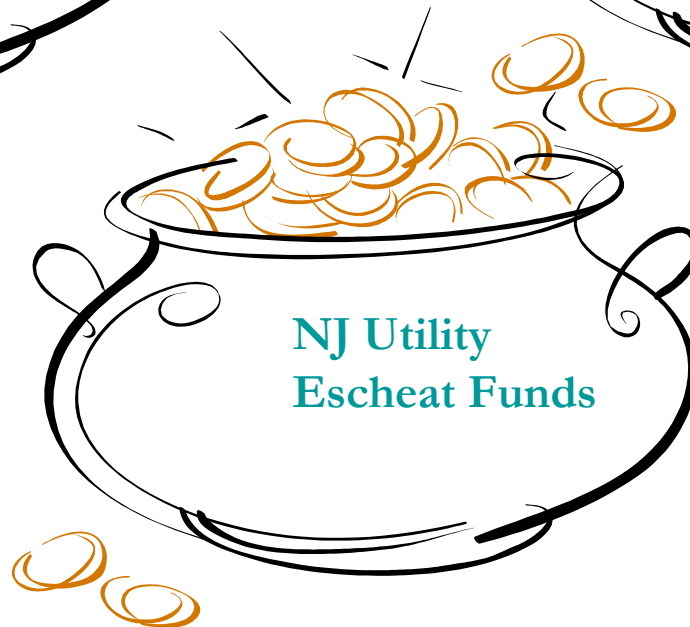
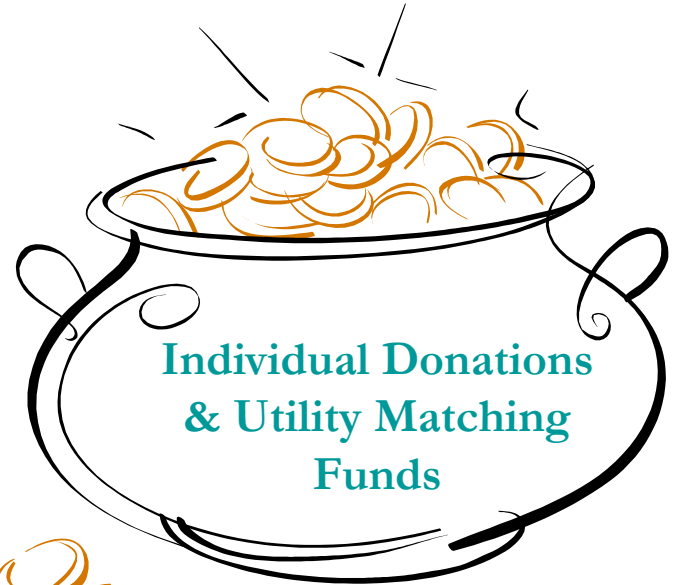
### 12/98 - 01/08



# NJ Residential Electricity Price per Kwh US Energy Information Administration Data 12/98 - 12/07



# Funding Sources



# Grants

- Maximum grant of \$700 for natural gas
- Maximum grant of \$300 for electric
- If a client heats with electric a maximum grant of \$700 may be awarded.

**New Jersey SHARES grants must continue or restore service and cannot be applied toward deposits.**



# **New Jersey SHARES**

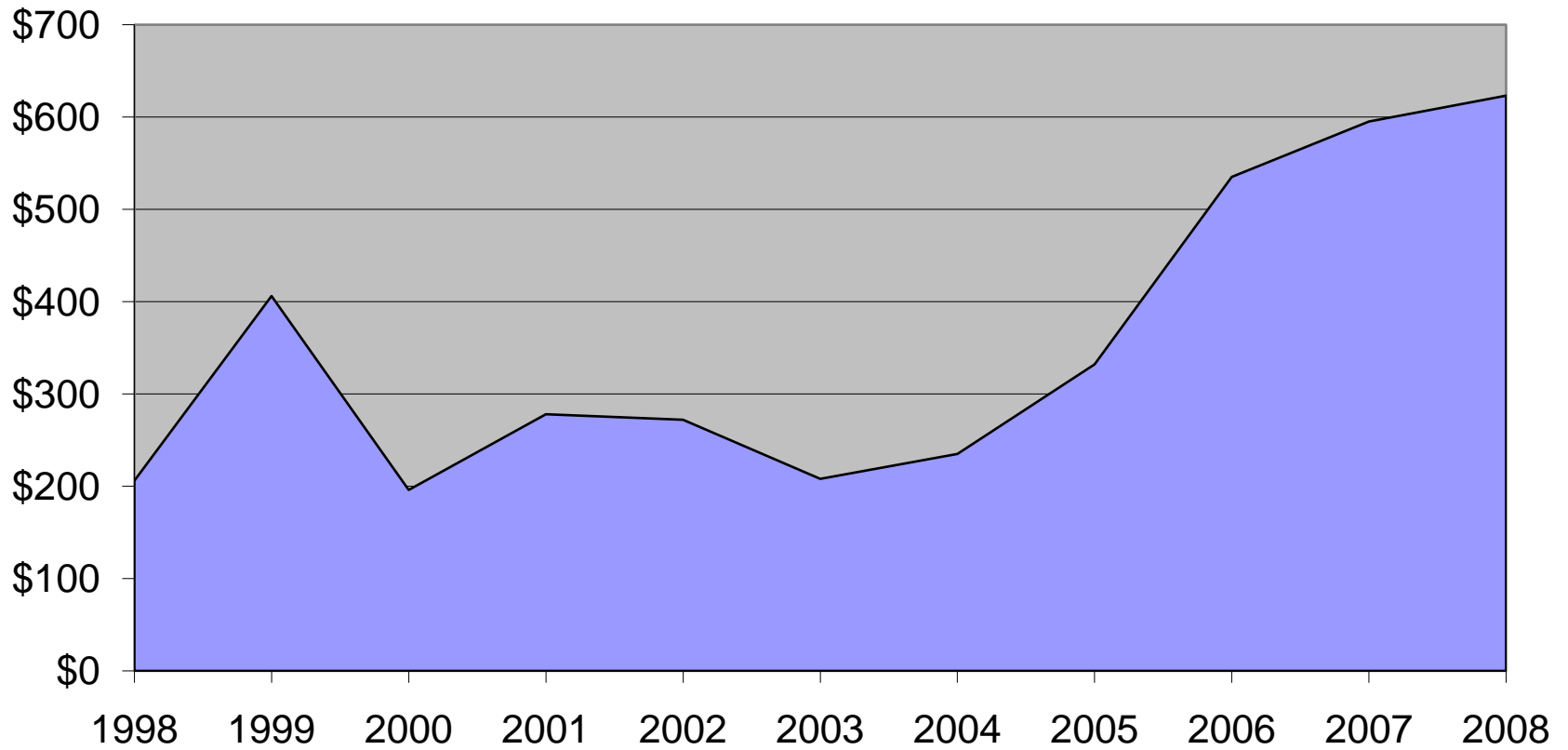
## **Energy Assistance Program**

### **November 1998 – April 2008**

- **Assisted more than 131,000 households**
- **Awarded grants in excess of \$43,800,000**



# New Jersey SHARES Average Grant 1998 - April 2008



# NJ SHARES Client Services Call Center

Staff is available to answer calls regarding the Verizon Communications Lifeline program, eligibility and enrollment opportunities M-F 9AM-6 PM.

Bi-lingual representatives and a language line are available to assist clients.



**The NJS Client Services CALL CENTER has assisted more than 267,000 clients since October 2005.**



# NJS Client Information

**NJ SHARES recipients are likely to have vulnerable household members!**

- **60% had a child 18 or younger in the home**
- **Average household had 2.7 members**
- **13% were single parent households**
- **89% had employment income**
- **12% had pension or retirement income**
- **5% had unemployment compensation**
- **4% had disability income**
- **4% received child support**
- **3% had other sources of income**



# NJS Client Information

**The crisis is temporary for many families. The worsening economy may impact this in the future.**

- **87 % needed assistance for one year**
- **11% needed assistance for two years**
- **2% needed assistance for three years**



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