



**A Safety-net for
Limited Income Households**

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 working poor, moderate and fixed income households who do not qualify for other energy assistance programs. Households that are receiving LIHEAP and/or NJ Universal Service Fund credits are not eligible for the NJS program. NJS partners with 190 community based organizations and legislative offices offering 239 intake sites across the state.



NJS Programs

- NJS is the statewide energy fund assisting natural gas, electric, and deliverable fuel customers throughout NJ. We partner with all of the regulated energy utilities in NJ, the Fuel Merchants Association of NJ and the NJ Propane Gas Association.
- 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.
- NJS manages and staffs the LIHEAP and Universal Service Fund call center for the State of NJ.



NJS 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
- **Maximum grant of \$700 for a deliverable fuel**

New Jersey SHARES grants must continue or restore service.



New Jersey SHARES
Energy Assistance Program
November 1998 – May 2009

- *Assisted more than 152,000 households*
- *Awarded grants in excess of \$52,500,000*



Funding Sources



Legislative Action



Individual Donations
& Utility Matching
Funds



Deliverable Fuel
Providers



NJ Utility
Escheat Funds



The NJ SHARES - Legislative Partnership

Recognizing that residents of NJ have been faced with an ever increasing energy burden. The NJ Legislature has acted four times to support NJ SHARES.

- Directed Utility Escheat Funds on an annual basis
- Directed \$15M in sales tax related to high energy bills
- Directed \$7M in general revenues to address high bills
- Directed \$10M in general revenues to address escalating energy bills during this recession
- RGGI funding to assist electric customers



NJS Client Information

Moderate income recipients are likely to have vulnerable household members!

- **64% had a child 18 or younger in the home**
- **44% had an adult older than 50 in the home**
- **Average household had 2.7 members**
- **27% were single parent households**
- **88% had employment income**
- **13% had pension or retirement income**
- **5% had unemployment compensation**
- **5% had disability income**
- **3% 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.

- **82 % needed assistance for one year**
- **13% needed assistance for two years**
- **4% needed assistance for three years**
- **1% needed assistance for four years**



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