

Fuel Funds Extravaganza!

See How it's done.



NEUAC 2011
Fort Lauderdale
Monday, June 27, 2011
2:00 – 3:15 PM, Session 2

History of Hardship Funds

- LIHEAP funding, although a vital resource has never been adequate to address the energy crisis facing our neighbors.
- The first fuel funds began operating in 1979.
- Our communities support hardship funds.

Benefits of Hardship Funds

- Reduce risk during extreme weather periods (fires, injuries and fatalities).
- Serve consumers that may not be eligible for any government sponsored assistance.
- Provide an incentive to consumers to respond to collection initiatives before termination of service creating a road to resolution.



Benefits of a Statewide Model

- Encourages participation from all stakeholders (advocates, energy providers, community organizations, faith based organizations, etc).
- Provides a community based solution for energy and other service providers.
- Simplifies eligibility requirements, outreach efforts and provides easy access for clients.

New Jersey's Energy Safety-Net

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded seasonal program available for households 200% or below the federal poverty guideline.

The Universal Service Program (USF) is funded through a societal benefit charge on natural gas and electric utility bills to aid households 175% and below the FPL. The program provides a monthly discount based on household income and energy usage. There is an arrears forgiveness component to wipe balances clean makes a good faith effort to pay current utility bills.

NJ SHARES extends the safety net to the working poor who do not qualify for the state and federal programs and whose income does not exceed 400% of the Federal Poverty Level.

NJ SHARES

- Created in 1998 through the collaboration of advocates, utilities, community and faith based organizations, and involved private citizens.
- 261 partner agencies with 328 intake sites throughout New Jersey.
- New Jersey SHARES has assisted 172,000 households with grants in excess of \$70,000,000.

Legislative Partnership

Recognizing the increasing energy burden on limited income households, 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.
- Directed \$5M in general revenues to address escalating energy bills during this recession.

Benefits of a Statewide Program

- Provides consistent review and grant determination.
- Allows for the integration of various assistance programs.



Today is 5/2/2011.
90 days ago the date was 2/1/2011.

Welcome to the NJ SHARES Agency Intake System

Welcome to NEUAC 2011 and to the Fuel Funds Extravaganza: See How It's Done Workshop!

This is the Welcome Screen that our Agency Partners view when signing in to our secure online system.

Welcome to the NJ SHARES Online Intake System Demo! This page mirrors everything that you will use on the NJ SHARES Online Intake System. Please use this site to test and become familiar with all the features that our site has to offer!

Check Grant Status

Search for an Applicant By:

SSN:

OR

Status:

OR

Application Date: OR



Priority Support Request

For Agency information changes and to schedule training click [here](#) and a NJS Outreach team member will contact you shortly.

APPLICATION PROCESS TOOLS

Training Manual:

- [Energy Training Packet](#)
- [How to Re-apply Applicants](#)

Income Calculator Tools:

- [Entering Unemployment Income](#)
- [Entering Varied Income](#)
- [How the system calculates income](#)

USEFUL TOOLS

[Frequently Asked Questions\(FAQ\)](#)

Collecting Client Information:

- [Energy Assistance Intake Form and Documentation Requirements](#)
- [Check List of Required Documents](#)
- [Deliverable Fuel Worksheet](#)

Statewide Strategy

Reach out to key audiences on a regular basis!

Program information, updates, white papers. Provide statewide and regional demographics on clients served and most importantly applicants turned away.

- Faith based Organizations
- Community partners
- Media contacts
- Identify legislative leaders as advocates
- Regulatory Agency and/or State Consumer Protection Agency
- Outreach to County Executives and Mayors

Communications

Face-to-Face Communication

- NJS conducts agency visits
- Our outreach team presents at community events and conferences

Written Communications

- System messages, emails
- Newsletters
- Brochures and other useful materials



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