



The additional funding was included in the Continuing Appropriations and Surface Transportation Extensions Act, enacted on December 22, 2010, which passed the House of Representatives with Congressman Olver's support.

Earlier this year, people receiving money through LIHEAP saw their benefits reduced from a maximum of \$1,240 to a max of \$515. This additional funding will raise the \$515 cap to \$1,050.

"These monies are absolutely critical for people in the First District during the cold New England winters. No one should have to face the impossible choice between paying their home energy bills or affording basic necessities like prescription drugs, housing and food," said Congressman John Olver.

"Much of the country has already experienced a very cold winter," said Secretary Sebelius. "Today's additional funds will help struggling families keep safe and warm for the remainder of

the season."

LIHEAP assists qualified families with their home energy needs such as heating in the winter, cooling their homes in the summer, and insulating their homes to make them more energy efficient and reduce their energy costs. By doing so, families are less likely to have to choose between paying their energy bills and other necessities, such as food or medicine. Energy assistance can reduce illness or the risk of fires that can break out when households turn to using candles or space heaters because they cannot pay their electricity or gas bill.

The block grant funds released today supplement two previous releases of funds under continuing resolutions in Fiscal Year 2011.

Individuals interested in applying for energy assistance should contact their local/state LIHEAP agency. For more information, go to: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/> or <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/brochure/brochure.html>

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