
U.S. Congressman Jim Cooper

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For Immediate Release:
January 16, 2008

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HELP FOR TENNESSEANS' HEATING BILLS IS ON THE WAY

Tennessee will receive over \$2 million in emergency funds passed by Congress

WASHINGTON—U.S. Congressman Jim Cooper on Wednesday praised the release of \$450 million in Congressionally mandated energy assistance funds to help seniors and working families keep their heat on through the winter.

Tennessee will receive nearly \$2.1 million to be used to assist low-income families and seniors through the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

“This is tremendously important funding for Tennesseans who are struggling to pay their heating bills this winter,” Cooper said. “After the heat wave scorched Tennessee last year, and with Americans everywhere facing record energy prices, this was a good moment for Democrats and Republicans to get things done together for people in need. I am proud Congress provided this emergency money and that the administration released it when waiting lists started forming across the country.”

The 110th Congress included \$2.6 billion in LIHEAP funding, part of which will help Middle Tennesseans heat their homes this year, in the omnibus spending bill passed in December. The \$2.6 billion was a \$400 million increase over the previous year’s funding level.

“Staying warm during the cold winter months is tough for a lot of Tennesseans, and many simply can't afford the high cost of heating their homes. This additional LIHEAP assistance will go a long way toward keeping some of the state's most vulnerable individuals warm and safe this season,” said Tennessee Department of Human Services Commissioner Gina Lodge. DHS is the agency that administers the LIHEAP program in Tennessee. “We appreciate the work Congressman Cooper and our Congressional delegation do on behalf of our needy citizens.”

“This is fantastic news. It could not have come at a better time,” said Cynthia Croom, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Action Commission. “We owe a debt of gratitude to all that worked diligently on the federal, state and local level to make this happen.”

The federal government has \$160 million remaining in emergency LIHEAP contingency funds to release.

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