



U.S. Congressman

Nick Rahall

WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WEST VIRGINIA TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY COLD WEATHER FUNDS

HUNTINGTON, WV -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) announced today that West Virginia will receive \$3.7 million in contingency funds from the Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. An emergency declaration by President Clinton enabled the release of these funds to West Virginia and other states hit hard by the recent winter storms.

"The extended period of unusually cold weather has left many West Virginians wondering how they will pay for heating their homes," said Rahall. "The Department of Health and Human Services has promised to quickly distribute this grant money so that affected low income households can get help right away."

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HHS NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HHS RELEASES \$300 MILLION EMERGENCY COLD WEATHER FUNDS

HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala today released \$300 million of Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program contingency funds to states hit by unusually harsh weather this winter. The release of funds was made immediately following an emergency declaration by President Clinton.

"The President's action today enables us to give help quickly to those who were hit hardest and who need it the most," said Secretary Shalala. "The unusually cold weather has created an emergency for many Americans."

The monies made available today were part of a contingency fund to be released upon the President's designation of an emergency under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended. In the 1994 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill, Congress authorized the President to target \$300 million to states experiencing emergency needs.

The emergency funds will be distributed to states that experienced in January more than 100 heating degree days in excess of their 30-year averages. The amount that each state will receive will be based on the number of heating degree days above that threshold and the state's low income population.

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"We are pleased that President Clinton has taken this action, which will enable states to meet critical needs caused by the extended period of record-breaking cold that struck these states," Assistant Secretary for Children and Families Mary Jo Bane said.

"Because of the urgency of the situation, we are prepared to issue grant awards very quickly so that affected low income households can receive the help they need."

Affected states are:

Connecticut	\$ 5,395,219
Delaware	286,478
Illinois	12,019,466
Indiana	2,325,128
Iowa	8,054,083
Kentucky	5,341,115
Maine	8,104,664
Maryland	6,631,189
Massachusetts	13,880,163
Michigan	48,845,949
Minnesota	37,399,847
New Hampshire	3,147,664
New Jersey	6,944,103
New York	61,460,518
North Dakota	8,102,045
Ohio	23,927,448
Pennsylvania	20,483,114
Rhode Island	1,727,532
South Dakota	1,994,310
Vermont	4,798,863
Virginia	678,471
West Virginia	3,732,291
Wisconsin	\$14,720,338

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