



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
101 SOUTH BROAD STREET
PO Box 800
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0803

JON S. CORZINE
GOVERNOR

SUSAN BASS LEVIN
COMMISSIONER

January 3, 2007

Dear Mayor:

With the winter heating season upon us, low income New Jersey seniors face the reality of having to pay for their rising utility costs. With that in mind, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs is launching an effort to educate seniors about the energy assistance programs available through the state and how to apply for them.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps directly pay for heating costs while the Universal Service Fund (USF) helps make utility bills affordable by providing a monthly credit on electric or natural gas bills or both. Receiving assistance from either of these programs will not affect the Lifeline benefit some seniors already receive. In fact, qualified individuals can receive all three!

There is one application for both USF and LIHEAP which you can download at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/dcr/hea/index.shtml>. The instructions cover how to complete the application and where to send it. There is an application deadline of March 31, 2007. Applicants can call DCA directly at 800-510-3102 with questions about the application process.

I would like to ask for your assistance in our efforts to reach out to low-income seniors in your area. If you can post the enclosed information in your office, put a blurb in an upcoming newsletter, link to our website (www.nj.gov/dca) from your website or simply let constituents know about the programs when they call, you can help us spread the word to this most vulnerable population.

If you have any questions about this program or would like more information please contact my office directly at (609) 292-6420.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Bass Levin".

Susan Bass Levin
Commissioner

