



For more information, please contact
Phil Donovan or Ryan Fisher at (503) 968-7161.

Support SB 863 Help families in Oregon heat their homes

Every day in Oregon, local Community Action Agencies answer an average of 1,500 calls from Oregonians in crisis seeking assistance paying their energy bill. In winter months these calls can reach over 8,000 per day. Energy assistance is one of many important services and support that Community Action Agencies provide to help stabilize families and build healthy communities. The benefit of energy assistance extends far beyond help with utility bills. It helps qualified low-income Oregonians use their limited resources to pay their rent or mortgage, to pay for medicine and to purchase food for their families. **By preventing shut-offs and restoring service, energy assistance helps Oregonians stay warm and safe in their homes.**

More than ever, Oregonians need energy assistance.

- Recent reductions in federal funding for energy assistance mean more households in Oregon will face utility shut-offs.
- Last year, more than one in five of the over 100,000 households served were receiving energy assistance for the first time.
- During the week of January 3 – 7, 2011, more than 56,000 households in Oregon contacted their local Community Action Agency for help with their energy bill. **Agencies providing services had enough funding to help only nine percent of them.**

What SB 863 Does

- Raises an additional \$5 million per year for two years to help low-income families pay their energy bills.
- Adds statutory language that enables new innovations in service delivery and more transparency around program impacts.

A modest increase to the existing Energy Assistance charge on PGE and PacifiCorp residential bills will provide critical energy assistance to income-qualified customers in need within those same utilities' service areas.

United support for SB 863

Community Action Partnership of Oregon (CAPO), PGE, PacifiCorp, Citizens' Utility Board have come together to support SB 863 and help families in Oregon stay warm and in their homes.