



Oregon's Poverty Fighting Network

CAPO Members

ACCESS

March 19, 2015

Clackamas County Social Services

FROM: Community Action Partnership of Oregon

Community Action Organization

RE: HB 3257

Community Action Program of East Central Oregon

TO: Chair Vega Pederson and the House Committee on Energy and Environment

Community Action Team

Community Connection of Northeast Oregon

Rising energy costs leave a growing proportion of Oregon households in the cold. Because of the rising costs, struggling families must choose between heat and other basic needs. Many energy assistance recipients have medical bills and other significant expenses, leaving them more vulnerable to temperature extremes that cause increased energy bills.

Community in Action CAA

Community Services Consortium

Klamath-Lake Community Action Services

Lane County Human Services Commission

Seventeen Community Action Agencies leverage funds from multiple partnerships to provide program services that reduce the energy burden. These services include: financial assistance toward a household's energy bill, emergency assistance if a household's home energy is disconnected or about to be disconnected. These same agencies also provide a range of other energy-related services such as weatherization improvements, utility equipment repair and replacement, and budget counseling.

Mid-Columbia Community Action Council

Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency

Multnomah County Department of County Human Services

NeighborImpact

Oregon Coast Community Action

Oregon Human Development Corp.

United Community Action Network

Yamhill Community Action Partnership

CAPO Board Officers

President: Jim Tierney

Vice President: Donna Bowman

Secretary/Treasurer: Barb Higinbotham

Past President: Brenda Durbin

Member-At-Large: Margaret Davidson

Financial stability for these families begins by removing the energy burden and providing healthy homes so that Oregonians can have a chance to thrive. In all, Community Action Agencies served over 110,000 homes using federal, state, and local funding sources last year – moving Oregonians one step closer to success and away from disconnection. Funding sources include: federal LIHEAP, Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP), local utility funding, HEAT Oregon and additional non-profit grants, and private donations.

CAPO Executive Director
Tom Clancey-Burns

Community Action Partnership of Oregon

www.caporegon.org
945 Columbia Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
phone: (503) 316-3951
fax: (503) 363-0113

However, only 25% of low-income Oregonians eligible to receive these services are served by all of these funds. Most of these struggling Oregonians are elderly, disabled or veterans, and simply cannot afford to pay their utility bill. Community Action engages these households to





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provide relief from cold, winter days, but funding is not enough to reach thousands of low-income utility customers.

Because of the overwhelming need, Community Action Supports HB 3257 and the additional resources it will provide to help 40,000 low-income utility customers avoid disconnection.

For more information contact: Ryan Fisher NW Public Affairs
email: ryan@nwpublicaffairs.com office: (503) 968-7161 cell: (503) 807-7525

