

Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

For Immediate Release:

August 5, 2015

Ford Urges House to Restore LIHEAP and CEDA Funding

SPRINGFIELD, IL – “The House of Representatives should pass legislation passed by the Senate which would restore funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Community & Economic Development Association of Cook County (CEDA), the agency that administers LIHEAP and other programs in Cook County,” said state Representative La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago. “We have more and more people become involved and sign our petition, and we are finally moving forward. I am joining my colleagues in Springfield this week to push for funding for LIHEAP and CEDA and other federally funded programs, and a temporary budget.”

Senate Bill 2042

(<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=2042&GAID=13&GA=99&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=90586&SessionID=88>) passed the Senate unanimously.

The federally funded LIHEAP program helps keep families safe and healthy through initiatives that assist families with energy costs in winter or in summer, including home energy bills, energy crises and weatherization and energy-related minor home repairs. LIHEAP is one of many programs CEDA offers to assist low-income residents of Cook County. CEDA provides services to over 500,000 clients in all areas of Cook County. Collectively, community action agencies such as CEDA serve more than one million individuals statewide every year. In addition, community action agencies in the state of Illinois have had to lay off more than 2,500 staff due to the blockage of funding.

Additional negative impacts of suspended state and federal funds include: over 43,000 households in Cook County will not be served if state funds are suspended; over 28,000 households that were enrolled in the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) program will lose their benefits; clients on the PIPP program will have utility arrearages placed back on their utility bills; another 20,000 households will not be serviced by the interruption of Federal funds for WIC, weatherization and CSBG programs.

FUND LIHEAP - CEDA TODAY PETITION:

Supporters of a petition to support restoration of funding may use this link:

http://pac.petitions.moveon.org/sign/fund-liheap-cede-today?source=c.em&r_by=9616806

For more information, contact one of Ford’s constituent service offices: 816 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park at [708-445-3673](tel:708-445-3673), 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at [773-378-5902](tel:773-378-5902) or in the Stratton Office Building in Springfield at [217-782-5962](tel:217-782-5962), or visit www.lashawnford.com.

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