

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Appeals to Feds for Aid for New Jersey Flood Victims Grants Would Cover Cost of Replacing Fuse Boxes, Insulation, Air Conditioners

Gov. Christie Whitman today in a letter to President Clinton requested federal funding for grants that would help low-income home owners cover the cost of energy-related damage left behind by Hurricane Floyd. The Governor asked for the release of emergency contingency funds from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

The emergency LIHEAP grants would help citizens in need bear the cost of utility reconnections, replacement of circuit boxes, furnaces and air conditioners, removal and replacement of soggy insulation, as well as energy costs throughout the winter. The grants would be administered by the New Jersey Department of Human Services.

"Hurricane Floyd brought devastation and destruction to more than 7,000 homes and businesses here in New Jersey. A number of towns that suffered the greatest damage are home to low-income families," said the Governor. "New Jersey's low-income families, as well as senior citizens and persons with disabilities have been placed at great risk by this flood. I am requesting your assistance to help insure their safety and to insure that they will be able to recover from this flood."

The President recently authorized the release of \$20.3 million in LIHEAP funds for the State of North Carolina for energy related damages from Hurricane Floyd.

The LIHEAP program provides annual assistance to low-income home owners as well as senior citizens and persons with disabilities to help cover the cost of heating, and in some instances cooling, their homes.

October 7, 1999

President William Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to request that you authorize the release of funding from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) emergency contingency funds to New Jersey for energy- related damage caused by Hurricane Floyd and the unprecedented flooding it left behind.

Hurricane Floyd brought devastation and destruction to many towns and many citizens in New Jersey. More than 7,000 homes and businesses suffered major damage. A number of towns that suffered the greatest damage are home to low- income families. New Jersey's low-income families, as well as senior citizens and persons with disabilities have been placed at great risk by this flood. I am requesting your assistance to help insure their safety and to insure that they will be able to recover from this flood.

You recently approved the release of LIHEAP funds for the State of North Carolina, and I am requesting that you also authorize that funds be released to New Jersey for energy related damages. This emergency LIHEAP funding would help citizens in need bear the cost of utility reconnections, replacement of circuit boxes, furnaces and air conditioners, removal and replacement of soggy insulation, as well as energy costs throughout the winter.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

Christine Todd Whitman
Governor

C: Secretary Donna Shalala
New Jersey Congressional Delegation

