

OPERATION FUEL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

The Power of Hope: Operation Fuel’s Commitment to Connecticut



For nearly fifty years, Operation Fuel has acted as a lifeline for Connecticut families, providing emergency energy and water assistance to households facing hardship. Our mission is clear: to lead the way so future generations can thrive with secure access to heat, power, and water. In our fiscal year 2024 alone, we distributed **over \$4.6 million in aid to 8,411 households**, making a tangible difference in the lives of thousands of residents.

As the need for assistance continues to grow, we are rising to the challenge. Despite funding limitations, we remain committed to finding solutions and expanding our reach. Last year, the Connecticut legislature unanimously voted to provide emergency funds to extend our winter season. The funds helped an additional 3,300 households who may have otherwise been turned away.

This year, the demand for our services has been greater than ever. When our energy assistance application portal opened on January 27, we saw an unprecedented response: **more than 1,500 households applied within the first week**. The continued rise in need underscores the importance of our work and the impact we continue to have across the state of Connecticut. As utility costs rise and economic pressures continue to mount, we will continue to work towards a future where no Connecticut household is forced to choose between heating their home and paying for other essentials.

However, Operation Fuel is more than just emergency assistance—we are advocates for long-term solutions. Our policy team is actively working with legislators and policymakers at the Legislature, sharing the real stories of Connecticut residents who are struggling to afford basic energy costs. By pushing for sustainable funding and systemic change, we are striving to create a future where energy insecurity is a thing of the past. To view our testimonies and see how we are fighting for equitable energy policy, visit operationfuel.org/advocacy.

Energy Burden vs. Rising Cost of Living



	2015	2025	% Change
Estimated # of CT residents struggling with energy costs	305,000	424,000	39% ↑
Median CT Income	\$71,346	\$75,643	6% ↑
Average CT Rent	\$1,241	\$1,805	43% ↑
Operation Fuel Funding in CT Statute Sec. 16-245I	\$2.1 million	\$2.1 million	0%
Highest Grant Amount	Up to \$500 per year	Up to \$500 per year	0%

While costs continue to rise, putting strain on more CT residents, Operation Fuel's funding has remained stagnant.

Exciting Announcements Ahead!

Sign up for eNews!

* Email

* First Name

* Last Name

* Email Lists

Donor Updates

General & Donor Updates

General Updates

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Sign Up!

Operation Fuel has a **monthly e-newsletter** where we share important updates about our programs and advocacy. We have some **BIG NEWS** to share in the upcoming months. Be sure to hear it first by signing up for our e-newsletter today at operationfuel.org/news.



Scan the QR code to sign up for our e-newsletter!

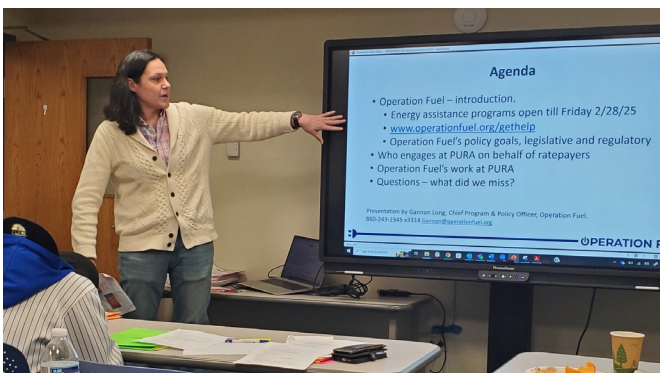


Equity, Accessibility, and Stakeholder Engagement at PURA

At Operation Fuel, we partner and collaborate with legislative and state officials, social service agencies, utilities, delivered fuel vendors, and other stakeholders to develop policies that reduce energy and water burdens for Connecticut residents.

Over the next year, Operation Fuel will actively participate in a new Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) proceeding that seeks to improve opportunities for more Connecticut residents to participate in the decision-making process. PURA is especially seeking the perspectives of low-income residential customers and those who experience high energy burden.

The first public meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 20, 2025. For more information on this and other PURA dockets we follow, please visit www.operationfuel.org/pura.



Scan the QR code for more info!



Partnerships Change Lives



New Haven resident, Ms. Severino, relies on Social Security as her sole income. She was recently faced with overwhelming challenges following the loss of her mother and brother, both of whom had lived with her. With limited access to phone, internet, or transportation, Ms. Severino struggled to address serious issues in her home, including a non-functional and leaking oil tank, refrigerator, and stove.

Ms. Severino turned to the I Heart My Home program through Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven (NHS) and Operation Fuel for help. NHS guided Ms. Severino every step of the way, securing funding from the Home Energy Solutions-Income Eligible (HES-IE) program, a state energy efficiency initiative funded by ratepayers and managed by utility companies. Operation Fuel stepped in to support improvements that HES-IE funding allows, ensuring no necessary work was missed. As a result, this partnership brought several upgrades to her home including mold

remediation, insulation, venting, and the installation of a high-efficiency heat pump.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of I Heart My Home, Operation Fuel, and local contractors, Ms. Severino's home is now more safe, efficient, and livable. Her story underscores the impact of community support programs in providing critical care assistance and creating lasting change for vulnerable residents during challenging times.

Ways to Give to Operation Fuel

LEGACY GIVING:

Include Operation Fuel in your estate plans to become a member of **The 1977 Society** to help fulfill our mission.

STOCK TRANSFER:

Notify us of your stock donation!
Email: perkin@operationfuel.org
Phone: 860-243-2345 ext. 3302

DONATE ONLINE:

operationfuel.org/donate

DONATE BY TEXT:

Text "OPFUEL" to 44321

ADD-A-DOLLAR:

Add a dollar **OR MORE** when paying your online utility bill & 100% of the contributions go to Operation Fuel!

CHECK OR CASH:

Mail your donation to:
 75 Charter Oak Avenue
 Suite 1-300
 Hartford, CT 06106

MATCHING GIFTS:

Maximize the impact of your gift by having it matched by your employer!

Travelers Championship Birdies For Charity is BACK!



Sponsored by



Operation Fuel has been a proud member of the Birdies For Charity Program! No contribution is too small. As little as \$10 can help keep the average Connecticut home powered for one day. **Donate today and receive a 15% match!**

Scan the QR code to donate online!



*"This grant has impacted my family in **only the best way**. It has helped to keep us warm all winter and removed some of the strain of **having to make a decision** whether we can turn the heat up or not on a cold and snowy night."*

- A Client Testimony from Hartford, CT

Giving Thanks:

The list below represents donors who have given \$1,000 or more between July 1 and December 31, 2024. Our mission is fueled by donations from families, individuals, and community partners. Thank you to everyone who helps make our work possible.

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