



INDIANA COMMUNITY ACTION POVERTY INSTITUTE

Research and Public Policy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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'Billed to the Breaking Point': Institute Releases Report on Electricity Cost Burden

Indianapolis, IN – Today, the Institute released a new report, 'Billed to the Breaking Point': Harms from Indiana's High Electricity Costs, that examines the impact of increasing electricity costs and reduced energy cost supports on Hoosier households across the state. Over the course of 2023, Indiana's big five investor-owned utilities disconnected 174,015 Hoosier households from electricity.

The Institute finds that even as CEOs of investor-owned utility companies take home millions in compensation packages, increasing numbers of everyday Hoosiers are unable to afford the rising costs of electricity. This comes as no surprise given estimates that Hoosiers' electricity costs have increased by 33 percent between 2012 and 2022, well above the national average increase of 19 percent. Simultaneously, present policies offered at the federal level including the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) only support 16 percent of eligible households, with the remaining 84 percent of households in need going unassisted during this electricity crisis. As we enter winter months of increasing cold, the Institute offers policy insights and reflects consumer needs at this critical time, particularly with recent requests from such utilities to increase rates further in coming years.

"We all need a home for our families that can be a safe temperature in summers and winters, and where we can cook and refrigerate food as part of our daily routine. High electricity costs threaten these essential functions by forcing consumers to choose between food, healthcare, and electricity in the midst of both a cost of living crisis and climate change," said Zia Saylor, Researcher at the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute. "This publication highlights how high electricity costs exacerbate energy burden and draws attention to policy solutions including statewide affordability assistance and limitations on disconnections."

"Guaranteeing uninterrupted access to utility services for all Hoosiers, regardless of income or zip code, is a moral imperative for our State. We should strive to adopt policies that lift people up and afford everyone the opportunity to live a dignified life and participate in society in a meaningful way," stated Kerwin Olson, Executive Director of the Citizens Action Coalition. "As this report displays, Indiana has a long way to go. We are hopeful that policy makers will use this report as a roadmap to begin crafting public policy that ensures the most vulnerable amongst us are protected from loss of these essential services."

The full report, released today, can be read online: ['Billed to the Breaking Point': Harms from Indiana's High Electricity Costs.](#)

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About the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute

The Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute engages in research and promotes public policies to help Hoosier families achieve and maintain financial well-being. We believe that when Hoosiers are financially stable, they can achieve their full potential and better contribute to their communities. The Institute is a program of the Indiana Community Action Association.

About Citizens Action Coalition

CAC is Indiana's oldest and largest consumer and environmental advocacy organization. Since our inception in 1974, we've helped to save Hoosiers more than \$10 billion in excess utility charges. Our mission is to initiate, facilitate and coordinate citizen action directed to improving the quality of life of all inhabitants of the State of Indiana through principled advocacy of public policies to preserve democracy, conserve natural resources, protect the environment, and provide affordable access to essential human services.