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#### **HEATING AID FUNDS FLOW FROM NATIONAL GRID OVERCHARGING SETTLEMENT**

Attorney General Maura Healey on Thursday announced her office will provide \$1.6 million to help consumers pay or lower their monthly heating bills.

The grant funding will be provided to seven organizations and is part of Healey's new Natural Gas Fuel Assistance Grant Program, which utilizes funds from a settlement earlier this year with National Grid in connection with overcharging customers.

"Each winter, thousands of families across Massachusetts struggle to come up with the money to heat their homes," said Healey in a statement. "This new grant program allows us to reach residents who aren't already receiving assistance and provide them with financial support to stay warm during these cold months."

One of the seven organizations receiving funding is the Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, which plans to use the funds to assist residents who are slowly recovering from the Sept. 13 gas explosions in the Merrimack Valley that left thousands without gas service for heating.

The other organizations receiving funding are the city of Medford, the Massachusetts Association for Community Action, the Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts, the Society of Vincent de Paul District of Attleboro, and the Lend A Hand Society and Springfield Partners for Community Action, Inc.

According to Healey's office, most of the funding will help natural gas customers participating in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) with additional funds as well as those who don't qualify for the federal program but make less than 80 percent of the state median income. - Chris Triunfo/SHNS

11/1/2018 5:16:43 PM

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