

Steelers Hall Of Fame Running Back Franco Harris And Equitable Gas Kick Off 2009 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Heinz Field, home of the 2008 Super Bowl XLIII champion Pittsburgh Steelers, hosted another group of champions on November 2, 2009, during the annual kickoff of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in Pennsylvania.

Pittsburgh Steelers Hall of Fame and four-time Super Bowl champion running back Franco Harris teamed with Equitable Gas and the two other western Pennsylvania natural gas distribution companies to champion the use of the LIHEAP program by Pennsylvania natural gas consumers.

Over the last several years, Mr. Harris, the three natural gas companies, and hundreds of social service agencies across the region have come together annually to form Franco's LIHEAP Army to educate natural gas customers on the LIHEAP program and encourage them to apply for grants.

LIHEAP is a federally funded program that provides a one-time cash grant applied directly to the customer's home heating bill. The program officially started November 2, 2009, and consumers may apply through their natural gas utility, through a social service agency, at their county assistance office, or online.

"Help paying your monthly natural gas bills this winter is once again available through LIHEAP," said Harris. "The local social service agencies who are teammates of mine in the LIHEAP Army see more requests for help each day from our friends and neighbors in need due to the economic downturn. It is important that those who find themselves in tough times apply to see if they are eligible for a LIHEAP grant."

For the 2009-2010 winter heating season, it is estimated that more than \$274 million will be Pennsylvania's allocation through the federal LIHEAP block grant provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Although LIHEAP is administered through Pennsylvania's Department of Public Welfare, it is not a public assistance program. Customers can access an application through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Access to Social Service Web site (COMPASS) at www.compass.state.pa.us.

Customers who received LIHEAP grants last year were sent a new application via U.S. Mail. Equitable Gas customers can call 1-800-272-2714 for details about LIHEAP and other assistance programs or click [here](#).



Franco Harris speaks with the media about LIHEAP.