DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP) DETAILED MODEL PLAN

MANDATORY GRANT APPLICATION SF-424 PUBLIC LAW 97-35, AS AMENDED FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2021

APPLICANT:	Department of Energy and Environment		
EIN: <u>1-5360</u>	01131		
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TYPE OF APPLI	CANT: TRIBE STATEX INSULAR AREA		
CDFA TITLE: Low Income Home Energy Assistance (93.568)			
FUNDING PERIOD: 10/1/2020 – 9/30/2021			
U.S. Departme	ent of Health and Human Services		

Administration for Children and Families Office of Community Services Washington, DC 20447

THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13)

Use of this model plan is optional. However, the information requested is required in order to receive a Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) grant in years in which the grantee is not permitted to file an abbreviated plan. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

THE LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

FY 2021 PROPOSED STATE PLAN

ASSURANCES

The Department of Energy and Environment (Grantee Name)

(1) use the funds available under this title to:--

(A) conduct outreach activities and provide assistance to low income households in meeting their home energy costs, particularly those with the lowest incomes that pay a high proportion of household income for home energy, consistent with paragraph (5);

agrees to:

(B) intervene in energy crisis situations;

(C) provide low-cost residential weatherization and other cost-effective energy-related home repair; and

(D) plan, develop, and administer the State's program under this title including leveraging programs,

and the State agrees not to use such funds for any purposes other than those specified in this title;

(2) make payments under this title only with respect to:--

(A) households in which one or more individuals are receiving--

(i) assistance under the State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act;

(ii) supplemental security income payments under title XVI of the Social Security Act;

(iii) food stamps under the Food Stamp Act of 1977; or

(iv) payments under section 415, 521, 541, or 542 of title 38, United States Code, or under section 306 of the Veterans' and Survivors' Pension Improvement Act of 1978; or

(B) households with incomes which do not exceed the greater of-

(i) an amount equal to 150 percent of the poverty level for such State; or

(ii) an amount equal to 60 percent of the State median income;

except that a State may not exclude a household from eligibility in a fiscal year solely on the basis of household income if such income is less than 110 percent of the poverty level for such

State, but the State may give priority to those households with the highest home energy costs or needs in relation to household income.

(3) conduct outreach activities designed to assure that eligible households, especially households with elderly individuals or disabled individuals, or both, and households with high home energy burdens, are made aware of the assistance available under this title, and any similar energy-related assistance available under subtitle B of title VI (relating to community services block grant program) or under any other provision of law which carries out programs which were administered under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 before the date of the enactment of this Act;

(4) coordinate its activities under this title with similar and related programs administered by the Federal Government and such State, particularly low-income energy-related programs under subtitle B of title VI (relating to community services block grant program), under the supplemental security income program, under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act, under title XX of the Social Security Act, under the low-income weatherization assistance program under title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act, or under any other provision of law which carries out programs which were administered under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 before the date of the enactment of this Act;

(5) provide, in a timely manner, that the highest level of assistance will be furnished to those households which have the lowest incomes and the highest energy costs or needs in relation to income, taking into account family size, except that the State may not differentiate in implementing this section between the households described in clauses 2(A) and 2(B) of this subsection;

(6) to the extent it is necessary to designate local administrative agencies in order to carry out the purposes of this title, to give special consideration, in the designation of such agencies, to any local public or private nonprofit agency which was receiving Federal funds under any low-income energy assistance program or weatherization program under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 or any other provision of law on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, except that—

(A) the State shall, before giving such special consideration, determine that the agency involved meets program and fiscal requirements established by the State; and

(B) if there is no such agency because of any change in the assistance furnished to programs for economically disadvantaged persons, then the State shall give special consideration in the designation of local administrative agencies to any successor agency which is operated in substantially the same manner as the predecessor agency which did receive funds for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the determination is made;

(7) if the State chooses to pay home energy suppliers directly, establish procedures to --

(A) notify each participating household of the amount of assistance paid on its behalf;

(B) assure that the home energy supplier will charge the eligible household, in the normal billing process, the difference between the actual cost of the home energy and the amount of the payment made by the State under this title;

(C) assure that the home energy supplier will provide assurances that any agreement entered into with a home energy supplier under this paragraph will contain provisions to assure that no household receiving assistance under this title will be treated adversely because of such assistance under applicable provisions of State law or public regulatory requirements; and

(D) ensure that the provision of vendor payments remains at the option of the State in consultation with local grantees and may be contingent on unregulated vendors taking appropriate measures to alleviate the energy burdens of eligible households, including providing for agreements between suppliers and individuals eligible for benefits under this Act that seek to reduce home energy costs, minimize the risks of home energy crisis, and encourage regular payments by individuals receiving financial assistance for home energy costs;

(8) provide assurances that,

(A) the State will not exclude households described in clause (2)(B) of this subsection from receiving home energy assistance benefits under clause (2), and

(B) the State will treat owners and renters equitably under the program assisted under this title;

(9) provide that--

(A) the State may use for planning and administering the use of funds under this title an amount not to exceed 10 percent of the funds payable to such State under this title for a fiscal year; and

(B) the State will pay from non-Federal sources the remaining costs of planning and administering the program assisted under this title and will not use Federal funds for such remaining cost (except for the costs of the activities described in paragraph (16));

(10) provide that such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures will be established as may be necessary to assure the proper disbursal of and accounting for Federal funds paid to the State under this title, including procedures for monitoring the assistance provided under this title, and provide that the State will comply with the provisions of chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as the "Single Audit Act"); (11) permit and cooperate with Federal investigations undertaken in accordance with section 2608;

(12) provide for timely and meaningful public participation in the development of the plan described in subsection (c);

(13) provide an opportunity for a fair administrative hearing to individuals whose claims for assistance under the plan described in subsection (c) are denied or are not acted upon with reasonable promptness; and

(14) cooperate with the Secretary with respect to data collecting and reporting under section 2610.

(15) * beginning in fiscal year 1992, provide, in addition to such services as may be offered by State Departments of Public Welfare at the local level, outreach and intake functions for crisis situations and heating and cooling assistance that is administered by additional State and local governmental entities or community-based organizations (such as community action agencies, area agencies on aging and not-for-profit neighborhood-based organizations), and in States where such organizations do not administer functions as of September 30, 1991, preference in awarding grants or contracts for intake services shall be provided to those agencies that administer the low-income weatherization or energy crisis intervention programs.

* This assurance is applicable only to States, and to territories whose annual regular LIHEAP allotments exceed \$200,000. Neither territories with annual allotments of \$200,000 or less nor Indian tribes/tribal organizations are subject to Assurance 15.

(16) use up to 5 percent of such funds, at its option, to provide services that encourage and enable households to reduce their home energy needs and thereby the need for energy assistance, including needs assessments, counseling, and assistance with energy vendors, and report to the Secretary concerning the impact of such activities on the number of households served, the level of direct benefits provided to those households, and the number of households that remain unserved.

By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications^{***} and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances^{***} and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)

Signature of the Tribal or Board Chairperson or Chief Executive Officer of the State or Territory.**

Signatu	re:
Title:	Director, Department of Energy and Environment
Date:	

* Indian tribes/tribal organizations, and territories with annual regular LIHEAP allotments of \$200,000 or less, are not subject to assurance 15, and thus must only certify to 15 assurances.

** If a person other than the <u>Chief Executive Officer</u> of the State or territory, or Tribal Chairperson or Board Chairperson of a tribal organization, is signing the certification to the assurances, <u>a letter must be submitted delegating such authority</u>. (PLEASE ATTACH DELEGATION of AUTHORITY.) The delegation must include authority to sign the assurances, not just to administer the program.

*** HHS needs the EIN (Entity Identification Number) of the State, territory or Tribal agency that is to receive the grant funds before it can issue the grant.

**** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

In the above assurances which are quoted from the law, "State" means the 50 States, the District of Columbia, an Indian Tribe or Tribal Organization, or a Territory; "title" of the Act refers to Title XXVI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (OBRA), as amended, the "Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act"; "section" means Section 2605 of OBRA; and, "subsection" refers to Section 2605(b) of OBRA.

Section 1 - Program Components, 2605(a), 2605(b)(1) - Assurance 1, 2605(c)(1)(C)

1.1 Check which components you will operate under the LIHEAP program. (Note: You must provide information for each component designated here as requested elsewhere in this plan.)

Dates of Operation

\boxtimes	Heating assistance	Start date: 10/01/20	End date: 09/30/21
\boxtimes	Cooling assistance	Start date: 10/01/20	End date: 09/30/21
\boxtimes	Crisis assistance	Start date: 10/01/20	End date: 09/30/21
\boxtimes	Weatherization assistance	Start date: 10/01/20	End date: 09/30/21

Provide further explanation for the dates of operation if necessary.

Estimated Funding Allocation, 2604(c), 2605(k)(1), 2605(b)(9), 2605(b)(16) – Assurances 9 and 16

- **1.2** Estimate what amount of available LIHEAP funds will be used for each component that you will operate: The total of all percentages must add up to 100%.
- 50 % Heating assistance
- 13 % Cooling assistance
- 10 % Crisis assistance
- 15 % Weatherization assistance
- 0 % Carryover to the following Federal fiscal year
- 10 % Administrative and planning costs
- 2 % Services to reduce home energy needs including needs assessment (Assurance 16)
- 0 % Used to develop and implement leveraging activities
- 100 % TOTAL

Alternate Use of Crisis Assistance Funds, 2605(c)(1)(C)

- **1.3** The funds reserved for winter crisis assistance that have not been expended by March 15 will be reprogrammed to:
 - Heating assistance
 - Weatherization assistance
 - Cooling assistance
 - Other (specify):

Categorical Eligibility, 2605(b)(2)(A) – Assurance 2, 2605(c)(1)(A), 2605(b)(8A) – Assurance 8

1.4 Do you consider households categorically eligible if one household member receives one of the following categories of benefits in the left column below? Xes ON

	Heating	Cooling	Crisis	Weatherization
SNAP	х	х	х	
TANF	х	х	х	х
SSI	х	х	х	х
Means-tested veteran's program				
Other (Specify):				

1.5 Do you automatically enroll households without a direct annual application?

Yes Xo -- If yes, explain:

1.6 How do you ensure there is no difference in the treatment of categorically eligible households from those not receiving other public assistance when determining eligibility and benefit amounts?

A household where at least one member of the household receives a SNAP, TANF, or SSI benefit is categorically eligible for LIHEAP payment assistance. For the purposes of calculating the amount of the LIHEAP benefit, categorically eligible applicants must submit required LIHEAP application documentation to DOEE. DOEE calculates the LIHEAP benefit amount for a categorically eligible household according to the District of Columbia's LIHEAP Benefit Matrix. Categorical eligibility for SNAP does not apply to the emergency HVAC programs.

SNAP Nominal Payments

1.7 a. Do you allocate LIHEAP funds toward a nominal payment for SNAP clients?

🗌 Yes 🛛 No

If you answered "Yes" to question 1.7a, you must provide a response to questions 1.7b, 1.7c, and 1.7d.

- b. Amount of Minimal Assistance: \$_____
- c. Frequency of Assistance:

	Once per year
	Once every five years
	Other (describe):

d. How do you confirm that the household receiving a nominal payment has an energy cost or need?

Determination of Eligibility – Countable Income

- **1.8** In determining a household's income eligibility for LIHEAP, do you use gross income or net income?
 - 🛛 Gross Income*
 - Net Income

*for the self-employed this is adjusted gross income, calculated according to U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requirements

1.9 Select all of the applicable forms of countable income used to determine a household's income eligibility for LIHEAP.

- \boxtimes Wages
- Self-employment income
- imes Contract income
- Payments from mortgage or sales contracts
- Unemployment Insurance
- Strike pay
- Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits
- Including MediCare deduction Excluding MediCare deduction
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Retirement / pension benefits
- General Assistance benefits
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits
- Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) benefits
- Loans that need to be repaid
- Cash gifts
- Savings account balance
- One-time lump-sum payments, such as rebates/credits, winnings from lotteries, refund deposits, etc.
- Jury duty compensation
- 🛛 Rental income
- Income from employment through Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
- Income from work study programs
- Alimony
- Child support
- Interest, dividends, or royalties
- Commissions
- Legal settlements
- Insurance payments made directly to the insured
- Insurance payments made specifically for the repayment of a bill, debt, or estimate
- Veterans Administration (VA) benefits
- Earned income of a child under the age of 18

Balance of retirement, pension, or annuity accounts where funds cannot be withdrawn without a penalty.

Income tax refunds

 $ig extsf{X}$ Stipends from senior companion programs, such as VISTA

 \boxtimes Funds received by household for the care of a foster child

 $oxedsymbol{rac{1}{2}}$ Ameri-Corp Program payments for living allowances, earnings, and in-kind aid

Reimbursements (for mileage, gas, lodging, meals, etc.)

🛛 Other

If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

For the self-employed, gross income is adjusted gross income, calculated according to U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requirements. DOEE does not provide benefits to utility accounts with a credit on the account greater than \$1,000.00. DOEE may reduce the client's benefit amount by the estimated dollar value of net-metering credits or virtual net-metering credits received through the District's Solar for All program (see:

<u>https://doee.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddoe/service_content/attachments/DOEE-</u> %20Report-%20Solar%20for%20All%20Implementation-%20Final%20for%20Transmittal.pdf)

The District will not consider the COVID-19 economic impact payments (up to \$1,200 for qualifying individuals and an additional \$500 per child) as income for eligibility. These payments count as a rebate or advance payment of a credit that are exempted as income. Section 103(d) of the American Taxpayer Relief Act amended the relevant statutory provision, 26 U.S.C. § 6409, and specifies that, "... any refund (or advance payment with respect to a refundable credit) made to any individual under this title shall not be taken into account as income, and shall not be taken into account as resources for a period of 12 months from receipt, for purposes of determining the eligibility of such individual (or any other individual) for benefits or assistance (or the amount or extent of benefits or assistance) under any Federal program or under any State or local program financed in whole or in part with Federal funds."

Section 2 - HEATING ASSISTANCE

Eligik	oility, 2605(b)(2) – Assurance 2			
2.1	Designate the income eligibili	ity threshold used for the he	ating cor	nponent:
	HHS Poverty Guidelines	%		
	OR			
	State Median Income	60%		
2.2	Do you have additional eligib	ility requirements for <u>HEATI</u>	NG ASSIS	TANCE?
	🗌 Yes 🛛 No			
2.3	Check the appropriate boxes	below and describe the polic	cies for e	ach.
			<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
	l Do you require an assets test	t?		\square
	I Do you have additional/diffe	ring eligibility policies for:		
	Renters?			
	 Renters living in subs Renters with utilities	included in the rent?	\boxtimes	
	l Do you give priority in eligibi	lity to:		
	Elderly?Disabled?			\boxtimes
	 Young children? 			
	Households with highOther?	n energy burdens?		\bowtie

Explanations of policies for each "yes" checked above:

Applicants that are residents of subsidized housing or residents of a dwelling unit where utilities are included in the rent must provide proof in the form of a utility bill that they or a household member are directly responsible for paying their own energy costs.

Determination of Benefits, 2605(b)(5) – Assurance 5, 2605(c)(1)(B)

2.4 Describe how you prioritize the provision of heating assistance to vulnerable households, e.g., benefit amounts, application period, etc.

LIHEAP is a non-entitlement benefit, determined and awarded for a single fiscal year. LIHEAP benefit amounts are determined using the District of Columbia's LIHEAP Benefit Matrix which calculates a household's LIHEAP benefit based on household income, household size, type of dwelling (single or multifamily), and fuel type. Benefit amounts are reviewed annually based on a sliding scale in order to allocate scarce resources in such a way that, while serving as many eligible households as feasible, the highest benefits go to eligible households likely to have the highest energy burdens. (See Attachment 2, "District of Columbia LIHEAP Benefit Matrix").

2.5 Check the variables you use to determine your benefit levels. (Check all that apply):

Income
 Family (household) size
 Home energy cost or need:
 Fuel type
 Climate/region
 Individual bill
 Dwelling type
 Energy burden (% of income spent on home energy)
 Energy need
 Other – Describe:

Benefit Levels, 2605(b)(5) – Assurance 5, 2605(c)(1)(B)

2.6 Describe estimated benefit levels for FY 2020:

\$ 250 Minimum benefit \$ 1,800 Maximum benefit

These are total figures for ALL LIHEAP regular assistance for the fiscal year, heating and cooling.

2.7 Do you provide in-kind (e.g., blankets, space heaters) and/or other forms of benefits?

Yes No -- If yes, describe:

Subject to available funding, electric space heaters and blankets are provided to households that have been disconnected from energy service or the home heating oil supply is at 5% or less of capacity.

Section 3 - COOLING ASSISTANCE

Eligil	oility, 2605(c)(1)(A), 2605(b)(2)	– Assurance 2		
3.1	Designate the income eligibili	ty threshold use	d for the cooling	component:
	HHS Poverty Guidelines	%		
	OR			
	State Median Income 6	0% %		
3.2	Do you have additional eligib	ility requirement	ts for <u>COOLING A</u>	<u>SSISTANCE</u>
	🗌 Yes 🛛 No			
3.3	Check the appropriate boxes	below and descr	ibe the policies fo	or each.
			<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
	I Do you require an assets test?			
	l Do you have additional/diff	ering eligibility p	olicies for:	
	Renters?			
	 Renters living in subs Renters with utilities 		ont2	
	I Do you give priority in eligit			
		inty to.		
	Elderly?Disabled?			
	Young children?			
	Households with high	energy burdens	?	
	• Other?			\bowtie

Explanation of policies for each "yes" checked above:

Applicants that are residents of subsidized housing or residents of a dwelling unit where utilities are included in the rent must provide proof in the form of a utility bill that they or a household member are directly responsible for paying their own energy costs.

3.4 Describe how you prioritize the provision of cooling assistance to vulnerable households, e.g., benefit amounts, early application periods, etc.

LIHEAP is a non-entitlement benefit, determined and awarded for a single fiscal year. LIHEAP benefit amounts are determined using the District of Columbia's LIHEAP Benefit Matrix which calculates a household's LIHEAP benefit based on household income, household size, type of dwelling (single or multifamily), and fuel type. Benefit amounts are reviewed annually based on a sliding scale in order to allocate scarce resources in such a way that, while serving as many eligible households as feasible, the highest benefits go to eligible households likely to have the highest energy burdens. (See Attachment 2, "District of Columbia LIHEAP Benefit Matrix ").

Determination of Benefits, 2605(b)(5) – Assurance 5, 2605(c)(1)(B)

3.5 Check the variables you use to determine your benefit levels. (Check all that apply):

 \times Income Family (household) size Home energy cost or need 🛛 Fuel type Climate/region Individual bill \times Dwelling type Energy burden (% of income spent on home energy) Energy need Other (describe)

Benefit Levels, 2605(b)(5) – Assurance 5, 2605(c)(1)(B)

- 3.6 Describe estimated benefit levels for FY 2020:
 - \$ 250 Minimum benefit \$ 1,800 Maximum benefit

These are total figures for ALL LIHEAP regular assistance for the fiscal year, heating and cooling.

3.7 Do you provide in-kind (e.g. fans, air conditioners) and/or other forms of benefits?

Yes No -- If yes, describe.

Subject to available funding, box fans are provided to households with inoperable air conditioning, when a member of the household is over the age of 55, or when a member of the household is under the age of six (6).

Section 4 - CRISIS ASSISTANCE

Eligibility - 2604(c), 2605(c)(1)(A)

4.1 Designate the income eligibility threshold used for the crisis component:

HHS Poverty Guidelines _____%

OR

State Median Income 60%

4.2 Provide your LIHEAP program's definition for determining a crisis.

A household is considered to be in crisis if the household has been disconnected from energy service or the household heating oil is at 5% or less of capacity.

As of May 26, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a household is considered to be in crisis if the household has a balance with an energy service vendor of \$250 or more.

4.3 What constitutes a life-threatening crisis?

A household is considered to be in a life-threatening crisis if the household depends on energy service for medical life support equipment and one of the following applies: (a) the household has been disconnected from energy service; (b) the household heating oil is at 5% or less of capacity; or (c) the household has received notice that a disconnection will occur within 48 hours or less. To qualify for life-threatening crisis assistance, applicants must provide certification from a licensed physician that a member of the household relies on energy service for emergency medical and life-support equipment.

As of May 26, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a household is considered to be in life-threatening crisis if the household has a balance with an energy service vendor of \$250 or more.

Crisis Requirements, 2604(c)

4.4 Within how many hours do you provide crisis assistance that will resolve the energy crisis for eligible households?

48 Hours

4.5 Within how many hours do you provide crisis assistance that will resolve the energy crisis for eligible households in life-threatening situations?

18 Hours

Crisis Eligibility, 2605(c)(1)(A)

4.6 Do you have additional eligibility requirements for CRISIS ASSISTANCE?

🛛 Yes 🗌 No

4.7 Check the appropriate boxes below and describe the policies for each.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Do you require an assets test?		\boxtimes
Do you give priority in eligibility to:		
 Elderly? Disabled? Young children? Households with high energy burdens? Other? 		$\boxtimes \boxtimes \boxtimes \boxtimes$
In order to receive crisis assistance:		
 Must the household have received a shut-off notice or have a near empty tank? Must the household have been shut 		
off or have an empty tank?	\boxtimes	
 Must the household have exhausted their regular heating benefit? Must renters with heating costs 		
included in their rent have received an eviction notice?		\boxtimes
 Must heating/cooling be medically necessary? 	\square	
 Must the household have non- working heating or cooling equipment? 		\boxtimes
• Other?		\boxtimes
Do you have additional/differing eligibility policies	s for:	
 Renters? Renters living in subsidized housing? Renters with utilities included in the rent? 		

Explanations of policies for each "yes" checked above:

Applicants that are residents of subsidized housing or residents of a dwelling unit where utilities are included in the rent must provide proof in the form of a utility bill that they are directly responsible for paying their own energy costs.

Applicants that have received a shut-off notice or have a near empty tank and meet one of the following: (a) are age 55 or older or (b) use a breathing machine, will be considered for crisis assistance. Applicants who have already exhausted their regular benefit will be considered for crisis assistance if the household has been disconnected from energy service, or the household heating oil is at 5% or less capacity. For the bulleted items following "In order to receive crisis

assistance", any one of the checked "yes" bulleted items will be considered a qualifying event. If an applicant goes through the regular application process, is granted a benefit, and still has a need for crisis assistance, the crisis application is processed at the same visit.

Determination of Benefits

- 4.8 How do you handle crisis situations?
 - Separate component Fast Track Other – Describe:

Ordinarily a crisis application will be treated separately from a regular benefit application. However, see item 4.7, just above.

4.9 If you have a separate component, how do you determine crisis assistance benefits?

Amount to resolve crisis, up to a maximum of <u>\$ 600</u> Other

Crisis Requirements, 2604(c)

4.10 Do you accept applications for energy crisis assistance at sites that are geographically accessible to all households in the area to be served?

\boxtimes	Yes			No
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Explain. DOEE accepts applications for energy crisis assistance at two sites that are geographically accessible to all households in the area to be served (one located in the Northwest quadrant and one located in the Southeast quadrant of the District of Columbia). Also, see response to Section 4.11.

4.11 Do you provide individuals who are physically disabled the means to:

Submit applications for crisis benefits without leaving their homes?

Yes 🛛 No If No, explain.

Travel to the sites at which applications for crisis assistance are accepted?

Yes	🛛 No If No, explain.
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During normal operations, all LIHEAP applicants schedule appointments through the District of Columbia's 3-1-1 information call line. When calling 3-1-1, physically disabled applicants may request a home visit to complete the application process. 3-1-1 call operators forward all home visit requests to LIHEAP staff and LIHEAP staff contact the applicant within 24 hours or the next business day to make arrangements for the home visit. During the public health emergency, physically disabled applicants may apply online at doee.dc.gov/liheap.

Benefit Levels, 2605(c)(1)(B)

4.12 Indicate the maximum benefit for each type of crisis assistance offered.

Winter Crisis	\$ 600	maximum benefit
Summer Crisis	\$ 600	maximum benefit
Year-round Crisis	\$ 600	maximum benefit

4.13 Do you provide in-kind (e.g. blankets, space heaters, fans) and/or other forms of benefits?

\square	Yes
	res

No If yes, describe:

Subject to available funding, DOEE provides in-kind crisis assistance in the form of electric space heaters, blankets, and/or box fans.

4.14 Do you provide for equipment repair or replacement using crisis funds?

Yes No

4.15 Check appropriate boxes below to indicate type(s) of assistance provided:

	Winter	Summer	Year-round
	Crisis	Crisis	Crisis
Heating system repair			Х
Heating system replacement			Х
Cooling system repair			Х
Cooling system replacement			Х
Wood stove purchase			
Pellet stove purchase			
Solar panel(s)			
Utility poles / Gas line hook-ups			
Other (Specify): Domestic hot water			Х

4.16 Do any of the utility vendors you work with enforce a winter moratorium on shut offs?

🗌 Yes 🛛 🖂 No 🔄

The utility vendors for the District of Columbia do not enforce a winter moratorium on shut-offs. However, under §34-1506.1(b) of the Code of the District of Columbia, "[a]n electric company shall not disconnect residential electric service during the day preceding and the day of a forecast of extreme temperature or if the forecast of extreme temperature precedes a holiday or weekend day, on any day during the holiday or weekend. § 34-1506.1(a) of the Code of the District of Columbia states, "[f]or the purposes of this section, the term "forecast of extreme temperature" means a National Weather Service forecast for the District of Columbia of 95 degrees Fahrenheit or above during any time of a day or of 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below during any time of a day. In addition, Chapter 3 of Title 15 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, commonly referred to as the District of Columbia's Public Service Commission (PSC) "Consumer Bill of Rights" or "CBOR", requires utilities to postpone disconnections for a period not to exceed twenty-one (21) days "if the Utility is provided with a physician's certificate or notice from a public health official which states that Disconnection would be detrimental to the health and safety of a bona fide occupant of the premises." 15 DCMR §311.1.

If you responded "Yes" to question 4.16, you must respond to question 4.17.

4.17 Describe the terms of the moratorium and any special dispensation received by LIHEAP clients during or after the moratorium period.

See the text in 4.16. There is no special dispensation for LIHEAP clients.

If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

Section 5 - WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE

Eligibility, 2605(c)(1)(A), 2605(b)(2) – Assurance 2

5.1 Designate the income eligibility threshold used for the weatherization component:

HHS Poverty Guidelines _____%

OR

State Median Income 60%

- 5.2 Do you enter into an interagency agreement to have another government agency administer a <u>WEATHERIZATION component</u>? Yes Xo
- 5.3 Name the agency.
- 5.4 Is there a separate monitoring protocol for weatherization?

🔀 Yes		No
-------	--	----

WEATHERIZATION - Types of Rules

5.5 Under what rules do you administer LIHEAP weatherization? (Check only one.)

Entirely under LIHEAP (not DOE) rules

Entirely under DOE WAP (not LIHEAP) rules

Mostly under LIHEAP rules with the following DOE WAP rule(s) where LIHEAP and WAP rules differ: (Check all that apply.)

Income Threshold

Weatherization of entire multi-family housing structure is permitted if at least 66% of units (50% in 2- & 4-unit buildings) are eligible units or will become eligible within 180 days.

Weatherization of shelters temporarily housing primarily low income persons (excluding nursing homes, prisons, and similar institutional care facilities) is permitted.

Other (describe)

Mostly under DOE WAP rules, with the following LIHEAP rule(s) where LIHEAP and WAP rules differ: (Check all that apply.)

Income Threshold

Weatherization not subject to DOE WAP maximum statewide average cost per dwelling unit.

Weatherization measures are not subject to DOE Savings to Investment Ratio (SIR) standards.

Other (describe) US DOE does not recognize SNAP recipients as categorically eligible. Weatherization of an entire multifamily housing structure is permitted if at least 66% of units (50% in 2- & 4-unit buildings) are eligible units or will become eligible within 180 days. Weatherization of shelters temporarily housing primarily low-income persons (excluding nursing homes, prisons, and similar institutional care facilities) is permitted.

Voc

No

Eligibility, 2605(b)(5) – Assurance 5

		103	NU
5.6	Do you require an assets test?		\boxtimes
5.7	Do you have additional/differing eligibility policies for:		
	 Renters? Renters living in subsidized housing?	\boxtimes	
5.8	Do you give priority in eligibility to:		
	• Elderly?		\square
	• Disabled?		\square
	Young children?		\square
	Households with high energy burdens?		\square
	• Other?		\square

If you selected "Yes" for any of the options in questions 5.6, 5.7, or 5.8, you must provide further explanation of these policies in the text field below.

LIHEAP weatherization applicants who are renters must submit a signed permission agreement from the owner of the dwelling unit to DOEE in order to proceed with weatherization work. For multifamily buildings, 66% or more of the dwelling units in the building must be occupied by eligible residents in order to be considered for the LIHEAP weatherization program.

5.9 Do you have a maximum LIHEAP weatherization benefit/expenditure per household?



5.10 What is the maximum amount? \$20,000

Types of Assistance, 2605(c)(1), (B) & (D)

- 5.11 What LIHEAP weatherization measures do you provide? (Check all categories that apply.)
 - Weatherization needs assessments/audits
 - Caulking and insulation
 - Install storm windows
 - Heating system repairs
 - Heating system replacement
 - Cooling system repairs
 - Cooling system replacement
 - Energy related roof repair
 - Major appliance repairs
 - Major appliance replacement
 - Install windows/sliding glass doors
 - Install doors (interior/exterior)
 - Install water heater
 - Water conservation measures
 - Compact florescent light bulbs
 - Other (describe) LED light bulbs.

Section 6 - Outreach, 2605(b)(3) – Assurance 3, 2605(c)(3)(A)

6.1 Select all outreach activities that you conduct that are designed to assure that eligible households are made aware of all LIHEAP assistance available:

Place posters/flyers in local and county social service offices, offices of aging, Social Security offices, VA, etc.

Publish articles in local newspapers or broadcast media announcements.

Include inserts in energy vendor billings to inform individuals of the availability of all types of LIHEAP assistance.

Mass mailing(s) to prior-year LIHEAP recipients.

- Inform low income applicants of the availability of all types of LIHEAP assistance at application intake for other low-income programs.
- Execute interagency agreements with other low-income program offices to perform outreach to target groups.

Other (specify):

LIHEAP staff regularly conducts targeted outreach in coordination with DOEE's Office of Community Engagement and Outreach. Staff visits and engages with Advisory Neighborhood Commission meetings, senior citizen housing complexes, and other local organizations to present program information for the upcoming fiscal year. DOEE's annual mass mailing for the District's Utility Discount Program (UDP) includes information about LIHEAP assistance.

Section 7 - Coordination, 2605(b)(4) – Assurance 4

7.1 Describe how you will ensure that the LIHEAP program is coordinated with other programs available to low-income households (TANF, SSI, WAP, etc.)

- Joint application for multiple programs
- Intake referrals to/from other programs

One-stop intake centers

Other – describe:

The District of Columbia's LIHEAP and the Utility Discount Programs (Residential Aid Discount, Residential Essential Services, and Customer Assistance Program) employ a joint application in order to coordinate energy-related services for low income residents. The District's LIHEAP intake Energy Centers are located in the same building as the District of Columbia's intake offices for the Department of Human Services (DHS), the agency that administers the District's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Medicaid programs.

Section 8 - Agency Designation, 2605(b)(6) – Assurance 6

8.1 How would you categorize the primary responsibility of your State agency?

- Administration Agency
- Commerce Agency
- Community Services Agency
- Energy/Environment Agency
- Housing Agency
- Welfare Agency
- Other describe:

Alternate Outreach and Intake, 2605(b)(15) – Assurance 15

8.2 How do you provide alternate outreach and intake for HEATING ASSISTANCE?

Intake for heating assistance is only provided by DOEE staff. DOEE staff conducts targeted outreach and client intake for heating assistance at sites throughout the District of Columbia.

8.3 How do you provide alternate outreach and intake for COOLING ASSISTANCE?

Intake for cooling assistance is only provided by DOEE staff. DOEE staff conducts targeted outreach and client intake for cooling assistance at sites throughout the District of Columbia.

8.4 How do you provide alternate outreach and intake for CRISIS ASSISTANCE?

DOEE does not provide outreach specific to crisis assistance. However, crisis assistance outreach is incorporated into the heating and cooling assistance outreach identified in items 8.2 and 8.3, above.

8.5 LIHEAP Component Administration.

	<u>Heating</u>	Cooling	Crisis	Weatherization
a. Who determines client	<u>State</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>State</u>
eligibility?	Administration	Administration	<u>Administrati</u>	Administration
	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Agency</u>	on Agency	Agency
b. Who processes benefit	<u>State</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>State</u>	
payments to gas and electric	Administration	Administration	<u>Administrati</u>	
vendors?	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Agency</u>	on Agency	
c. Who processes benefit	<u>State</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>State</u>	
payments to bulk fuel	Administration	Administration	<u>Administrati</u>	
vendors?	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Agency</u>	on Agency	
d. Who performs installation				Non-profits
of weatherization measures?				

If any of your LIHEAP components are not centrally-administered by a state agency, you must complete questions 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, and, if applicable, 8.9.

8.6 What is your process for selecting local administering agencies?

For weatherization, non-profits are selected through a competitive Request for Applications process.

8.7 How many local administering agencies do you use?

DOEE's weatherization program currently has three approved non-profits.

8.8 Have you changed any local administering agencies from last year?

🗌 Yes 🛛 🕅 No

8.9 If so, why?

Agency was in noncompliance with grantee requirements for LIHEAP

Agency is under criminal investigation

Added agency

Agency closed

Other – describe

Section 9 - Energy Suppliers, 2605(b)(7) – Assurance 7

9.1 Do you make payments directly to home energy suppliers?

Heating	Yes 🗌 No
Cooling	🖂 Yes 📃 🛛 No
Crisis	🛛 Yes 🗌 🛛 No
Are there exceptions?	🗌 Yes 🔀 🛛 No

If yes, describe:

Payments are made by DOEE directly to the home energy suppliers within 30 business days of the approval of assistance.

9.2 How do you notify the client of the amount of assistance paid?

At the conclusion of the intake process clients are provided with a written notice that states the exact amount of assistance that will be paid towards their utility bill and the name of the payee. All payments are made directly to the energy supplier.

9.3 How do you assure that the home energy supplier will charge the eligible household, in the normal billing process, the difference between the actual cost of the home energy and the amount of the payment?

Vendor agreements are executed annually with each energy and oil company that supplies electric, natural gas or oil service to District residents. The agreements incorporate this assurance.

9.4 How do you assure that no household receiving assistance under this title will be treated adversely because of their receipt of LIHEAP assistance?

Vendor agreements are executed annually with each energy and oil company that supplies electric, natural gas or oil service to District residents. The agreements incorporate this assurance.

9.5 Do you make payments contingent on unregulated vendors taking appropriate measures to alleviate the energy burdens of eligible households?

Yes 🛛 No. If so, describe the measures unregulated vendors may take.

Section 10 - Program, Fiscal Monitoring, and Audit, 2605(b)(10) – Assurance 10

10.1 How do you ensure good fiscal accounting and tracking of LIHEAP funds?

Federally accepted accounting practices and fiscal controls are used to track administrative and benefit expenditures. Authorized funding is assigned budgetary codes by funding type for tracking, monitoring, and compliance purposes. The LIHEAP program is also subject to District of Columbia internal audits.

Both LIHEAP and WAP are administered by DOEE, therefore weatherization funds are not transferred to a separate state agency and LIHEAP funds are monitored in-house by the District's independent Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) staff.

All vendor transfers are reconciled on a regular basis and vendor refunds are returned to the same funding index (accounting category) from which they originated. DOEE program monitoring includes periodically inspecting and reviewing a random sample of client records, administrative procedures and expenditures, vendor payments, requests for disbursement of funds, and other LIHEAP program-related activities.

The District completed a Single Audit for FY19; however, the LIHEAP program was not selected for review.

Audit Process

10.2 Is your LIHEAP program audited annually under the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?

🗌 Yes 🛛 🖂 No

10.3 Describe any audit findings rising to the level of material weakness or reportable condition cited in the A-133 audits, Grantee monitoring assessments, inspector general reviews, or other government agency reviews of the LIHEAP agency from the most recently audited federal fiscal year.

Finding	Туре	Brief Summary	Resolved?	Action Taken
1	Other	The auditor	Yes.	A correction
		selected a sample		action plan
		of 40 applications		was
		in Fiscal Year		implemented
		2016 to test		which calls for
		DOEE's		a third level
		compliance with		of review by
		eligibility		supervisors of
		requirements.		a minimum of
		The auditor noted		5 applications
		that two out of		per processor

		th = 10	un aux una aux bla
		the 40	per month.
		applications had	
		household	
		income	
		incorrectly	
	1	recorded into the	
	:	system by the	
	:	same intake	
		processor. There	
		was evidence of a	
		review by	
		another	
		processor, but	
		these errors were	
		not caught. As a	
		result, benefit	
		payments were	
		overpaid by a	
		total of \$351.	
2			
3			
4			
5			

10.4 Audits of Local Administering Agencies

What types of annual audit requirements do you have in place for local administering agencies/district offices?

- Local agencies/district offices are required to have an annual audit in compliance with the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133.
- Local agencies/district offices are required to have an annual audit (other than A-133).
- Local agencies/district offices' A-133 or other independent audits are reviewed by Grantee as part of compliance process.

Grantee conducts fiscal and program monitoring of local agencies/district offices.

Compliance Monitoring

10.5 Describe the Grantee's strategies for monitoring compliance with the Grantee's and Federal LIHEAP policies and procedures. Select all that apply:

Grantee employees:

Internal program review

Departmental oversight

Secondary review of invoices and payments

Other program review mechanisms are in place. Describe:

Local Administering Agencies/District Offices:

On-site evaluation

Annual program review

Monitoring through central database

Desk reviews

Client File Testing/Sampling

Other program review mechanisms are in place. Describe: *Supervisors conduct additional third level reviews for each processor.*

10.6 Explain, or attach a copy of, your local agency monitoring schedule and protocol.

N/A

10.7 Describe how you select local agencies for monitoring reviews? N/A

Site Visits:

Desk Reviews:

- **10.8** How often is each local agency monitored? *N/A*
- 10.9 What is the combined error rate for eligibility determinations? OPTIONAL

N/A

10.10 What is the combined error rate for benefit determinations? OPTIONAL

N/A

10.11 How many local agencies are currently on corrective action plans for eligibility and/or benefit determination issues?

N/A

10.12 How many local agencies are currently on corrective action plans for financial accounting or administrative issues?

N/A

Section 11 - Timely and Meaningful Public Participation, 2605(b)(12), 2605(c)(2)

11.1 How did you obtain input from the public in the development of your LIHEAP plan?

Select all that apply:

- Tribal Council meeting(s)
- Public Hearing(s)
- igtriangleup Draft Plan posted to website and available for comment
- Hard copy of plan is available for public view and comment
- Comments from applicants are recorded
- Request for comments on draft Plan is advertised
- Stakeholder consultation meeting(s)
- Comments are solicited during outreach activities
- Other, describe: Due to COVID-19, a hard copy of the plan was made available to the public by mail, but not by personal delivery at DOEE's office. Also, DOEE posted a DOEE email address for receipt of comments.

11.2 What changes did you make to your LIHEAP plan as a result of this participation?

[To be completed after the public hearing.]

Public Hearings, 2605(a)(2)

11.3 List the date and location(s) that you held public hearing(s) on the proposed use and the distribution of your LIHEAP funds?

Date	Event Description
August 19, 2020	Virtual Public Hearing

- **11.4 How many parties commented on your plan at the hearing(s)?** [To be completed after the public hearing.]
- **11.5** Summarize the comments you received at the hearing(s).

[To be completed after the public hearing.]

11.6 What changes did you make to your LIHEAP plan as a result of the public hearing(s)?

[To be completed after the public hearing.] If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

Section 12 - Fair Hearings, 2605(b)(13) – Assurance 13

12.1 How many fair hearings did the grantee have in the prior Federal fiscal year?

During FY 2019 LIHEAP appellants docketed 8 cases at the Office of Administrative Hearings. All 8 cases were dismissed.

- **12.2** How many of those fair hearings resulted in the initial decision being reversed? None.
- **12.3** Describe any policy and/or procedural changes made in the last Federal fiscal year as a result of fair hearings?

All of the fair hearings were dismissed by the Office of Administrative Hearings in DOEE's favor (i.e., none reversed DOEE's benefit determination).

12.4 Describe your fair hearing procedures for households whose applications are denied.

The District of Columbia's independent Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) conducts hearings and resolves cases involving various programs administered by District agencies, including decisions concerning DOEE's LIHEAP non-entitlement benefit. See, generally, the District of Columbia's Municipal Regulations, 1 DCMR §§ 2970-78.

An applicant, who is dissatisfied with a DOEE LIHEAP decision, including the denial of an application for a benefit, may follow the cited administrative appeal procedures. 1 DCMR 2970.1(I). An independent OAH administrative law judge issues a written decision for every case that is contested.

12.5 When and how are applicants informed of these rights?

Every applicant for LIHEAP assistance receives at the conclusion of the intake and the processing of their application: (a) a letter confirming the decision, (b) a printout of the database information on which the decision was based, (c) a copy of the matrix used to determine benefit level with a user key, and (d) detailed instructions on how to file an appeal if the applicant is dissatisfied with the decision. (See attached.) If the application was made at a DOEE office, these materials are provided to the applicant in person. If the application was taken at a home, as with a disabled or an elderly and frail person, DOEE provides the materials to the applicant promptly after the application is made. If the application was completed online or via the mail, materials (a), (c) and (d) are available online and the applicant may request item (b) by calling the District's unified call center at 311.

12.6 Describe your fair hearing procedures for households whose applications are not acted on in a timely manner.

Hearings are held before an administrative law judge at the independent Office of Administrative Hearings.

12.7 When and how are applicants informed of these rights?

At the conclusion of processing of the application, every in-person applicant for LIHEAP assistance receives (a) a letter confirming the decision, (b) a printout of the database

information on which the decision was based, (c) a copy of the matrix used to determine benefit level with a user key, and (d) detailed instructions on how to appeal if the applicant is dissatisfied with the decision. If the application was completed online, materials (a), (c) and (d) are available online and the applicant may request item (b) by calling the District's unified call center at 311. (See attached.)

Section 13 - Reduction of home energy needs, 2605(b)(16) – Assurance 16

13.1 Describe how you use LIHEAP funds to provide services that encourage and enable households to reduce their home energy needs and thereby the need for energy assistance?

Up to two (2) percent of awarded funds are used to conduct educational activities to educate participants on how to identify energy waste, increase energy efficiency, and to understand and read their utility bills. These activities are conducted to assist clients in reducing their energy costs. For LIHEAP weatherization cases, DOEE's energy efficiency staff explains his findings to the LIHEAP household members

13.2 How do you ensure that you don't use more than 5% of your LIHEAP funds for these activities?

A separate line item budget is established for the funds that are used for this purpose. The funds are assigned an index number and tracked and monitored on a monthly basis to assure compliance with funding guidelines. The LIHEAP weatherization work is accounted for separately, as well.

13.3 Describe the impact of such activities on the number of households served in the previous Federal fiscal year.

At the end of each fiscal year an analysis is conducted to determine the estimated savings a single-family household would receive based on the energy conservation measures installed. The following year the same household's energy bills are reviewed to determine the actual costs to quantify the data previously estimated. Please see the actual savings for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 and the estimated savings for fiscal year 2020.

Fiscal Year	# Client Served	Overall Electric	Overall Gas Savings in
		Savings in BTUs and	Therms and Cost
		Cost	
18	70	198,561,340/\$7,773	21,748 / \$27,837
19	104	655,230,244/\$25,650	88,967/\$113,877
20	27	149,609,376/\$53,472	37,949/\$48,574
		(estimate)	(estimate)

13.4 Describe the level of direct benefits provided to those households in the previous Federal fiscal year.

An energy audit was conducted for each Weatherization applicant to determine the highest energy saving measures to be installed. Energy conservation information was provided to help residents identify potential behavior changes that could lower their utility costs.

13.5 How many households applied for these services?

50 single family households

13.6 How many households received these services?

27 single family households

Section 14 - Leveraging Incentive Program, 2607A

- 14.1 Do you plan to submit an application for the leveraging incentive program?
 - Yes No
- 14.2 Describe instructions to the third parties and/or local agencies for submitting LIHEAP leveraging resource information and retaining records. N/A
- 14.3 For each type of resource and/or benefit to be leveraged in the upcoming year that will meet the requirements of 45 C.F.R. § 96.87(d)(2)(iii), describe the following:

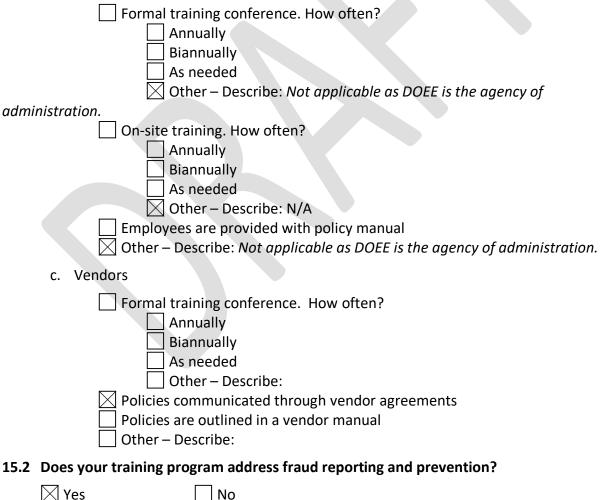
What is the type of resource or benefit?	What is the source(s) of the resource?	How will the resource be integrated and coordinated with the LIHEAP program?

Section 15 – Training

15.1 Describe the training you provide for each of the following groups:

a. Grantee Staff:

Formal training on grantee policies and procedures. How often?
Annually
Biannually
As needed
Other – Describe:
Employees are provided with policy manual
Other – Describe: When travel is allowed, DOEE sends some LIHEAP staff
members to at least one annual meeting or training held by the National Utility and Energy
Affordability Coalition (NEUAC). DOEE will attend virtual trainings and conferences when they are made available.
b. Local Agencies:



If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

Section 16 - Performance Goals and Measures, 2605(b) – Required for States Only

16.1 Describe your progress toward meeting the data collection and reporting requirements of the four required LIHEAP performance measures. Include timeframes and plans for meeting these requirements and what you believe will be accomplished in the coming federal fiscal year.

1. Current practices: DOEE currently collects the data required for the LIHEAP performance measures. DOEE made steps in late FY15 and early FY16 to begin collecting the average annual electricity (non-heat) usage for LIHEAP applicants, which was previously not collected due to the difficulty in accessing this information. DOEE updated the applications forms to include language that granted to DOEE the applicant's permission to share their secondary utility information. Additionally, DOEE updated the language in the vendor agreements to include the provision of usage data for all LIHEAP applicants regardless of home energy type.

2. Areas of improvement: DOEE communicates regularly with Pepco, Washington Gas, and our software vendor to ensure that any issues that arise are attended to so that DOEE will meet the performance measures mandate.

3. FY21: DOEE will implement a new software system to further improve our data collection and reporting procedures. FY20 and FY19: DOEE began working with a consultant, APPRISE, to evaluate and review the reported data in FY18 and plans to continue to do so in FY21. DOEE has also procured a new software vendor and has been working with this vendor and APPRISE to ensure that additional functionality is incorporated for the reporting of performance measures; including improved tracking of the prevention of disconnections and the restoration of service.

4. Plan: DOEE executed revised multi-year Vendor Agreements and implemented revised procedures on October 1, 2018. DOEE is further working to align the software technology to match revised requirements within the terms of each Vendor Agreement.

Section 17 - Program Integrity, 2605(b)(10)

17.1 Fraud Reporting Mechanisms

- a. Describe all mechanisms available to the public for reporting cases of suspected waste, fraud, and abuse.
 - Online Fraud Reporting
 - Dedicated Fraud Reporting Hotline
 - Report directly to local agency/district office or Grantee office
 - Report to State Inspector General or Attorney General
 - Forms and procedures in place for local agencies/district offices and vendors to report fraud, waste, and abuse.
 - Other describe:
- b. Describe strategies in place for advertising the above-referenced resources. Select all that apply
 - Printed outreach materials
 Addressed on LIHEAP application
 Website
 - Other describe:

LIHEAP literature contains information on reporting fraud, waste, and abuse.

17.2 Identification Documentation Requirements

a. Indicate which of the following forms of identification are required or requested to be collected from LIHEAP applicants or their household members.

Type of Identification	Collected from Whom?						
Collected	Applicant		All Adults in		All Household		
Collected	Only		Household		Members		
Social Security Card is	Required		Required		Required	\boxtimes	
photocopied and retained							
Social Security Number	Required		Required		Required	\boxtimes	
(without actual card)							
Government-issued	Required 🖂		Required		Required		
identification card (i.e.:							
driver's license, state ID,							
Tribal ID, passport, etc.)							
Other:	Required		Required		Required		

b. Describe any exceptions to the above policies:

17.3 Identification Verification

Describe what methods are used to verify the authenticity of identification documents provided by clients or household members. Select all that apply.

- Verify SSNs with Social Security Administration
- Match SSNs with death records from Social Security Administration or state agency
- Match SSNs with state eligibility/management system (e.g., SNAP, TANF)
 - Match with state Department of Labor system
 - Match with state and/or federal corrections system
- Match with state child support system
- Verification using private software (e.g., The Work Number)
- In-person certification by staff (for tribal grantees only)
- Match SSN/Tribal ID number with tribal database or enrollment records (for tribal grantees only)

Other – describe: Note: the SNAP/TANF systems cannot be accessed remotely while the agency is under a COVID-19 Mayor's public health emergency order and operating in telework status.

17.4 Citizenship/Legal Residency Verification

What are your procedures for ensuring that household members are U.S. citizens or aliens who are qualified to receive LIHEAP benefits?

- Clients sign an attestation of citizenship or legal residency
- Clients' submission of Social Security cards is accepted as proof of legal residency
 - Noncitizens must provide documentation of immigration status
 - Citizens must provide a copy of their birth certificate, naturalization papers, or passport
- Noncitizens are verified through the SAVE system
- Tribal members are verified through Tribal database/Tribal ID card
- Other describe:

An eligible household member is any individual who is a U.S. citizen or "qualified alien" and is a member of a household that meets the eligibility requirements specified in Section 2605(b)(2) of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 8624(b)(2)). A "qualified alien" is defined at 8 U.S.C. § 1641(b).

17.5 Income Verification

What methods does your agency utilize to verify household income? Select all that apply.

Require documentation of income for all adult household members

- Pay stubs
- Social Security award letters
- Bank statements
- X Tax statements
- Zero-income statements

Unemployment insurance letters

 \bigcirc Other – describe: Documentation of all countable forms of income selected in Section 1.9, above.

Computer data matches:

Income information matched against state computer system (e.g., SNAP, TANF)

Proof of unemployment benefits verified with state Department of Labor

Social Security income verified with SSA

Utilize state directory of new hires

Other – describe: Note: the SNAP/TANF systems cannot be accessed

remotely while the agency is under a COVID-19 Mayor's public health emergency order and operating in telework status.

17.6 Protection of Privacy and Confidentiality

Describe the financial and operating controls in place to protect client information against improper use or disclosure.

- Policy in place prohibiting release of information without written consent
- Grantee LIHEAP database includes privacy/confidentiality safeguards

Employee training on confidentiality for:

Grantee employees

Local agencies/district offices

Employees must sign confidentiality agreement

Grantee employees

Local agencies/district offices

- Physical files are stored in a secure location
 - Other describe:

17.7 Verifying the Authenticity of Energy Vendors

What policies are in place for verifying vendor authenticity? Select all that apply.

- All vendors must register with the State/Tribe
- \boxtimes All vendors must supply a valid SSN or TIN/W-9 form
 - Vendors are verified through energy bills provided by the household
- Grantee and/or local agencies/district offices perform physical monitoring of vendors
- Other describe and note any exceptions to policies above:

17.8 Benefits Policy – Gas and Electric Utilities

What policies are in place to protect against fraud when making benefit payments to gas and electric utilities on behalf of clients? Select all that apply.

- Applicants required to submit proof of physical residency
- Applicants must submit current utility bill
- Data exchange with utilities that verifies:

	 Account ownership Consumption
	Balances
	Payment history
	Account is properly credited with benefit
	Other – describe:
	Centralized computer system/database tracks payments to all utilities
	Centralized computer system automatically generates benefit level
	Separation of duties between intake and payment approval
	Payments coordinated among other heating assistance programs to avoid
	duplication of payments
	Payments to utilities and invoices from utilities are reviewed for accuracy
	Computer databases are periodically reviewed to verify accuracy and timeliness of payments made to utilities
	Direct payment to households are made in limited cases only
	Procedures are in place to require prompt refunds from utilities in cases of account closure
	Vendor agreements specify requirements selected above, and provide enforcement mechanism
	Other – describe:
17.9	Benefits Policy — Bulk Fuel Vendors
	What procedures are in place for averting fraud and improper payments when dealing with bulk fuel suppliers of heating oil, propane, wood, and other bulk fuel vendors? Select all the apply.

- Vendors are checked against an approved vendors list
- Centralized computer system/database is used to track payments to all vendors
- Clients are relied on for reports of non-delivery or partial delivery
 - Two-party checks are issued naming client and vendor
 - Direct payment to households are made in limited cases only
 - Vendors are only paid once they provide a delivery receipt signed by the client
 - Conduct monitoring of bulk fuel vendors
- Bulk fuel vendors are required to submit reports to the Grantee
- Vendor agreements specify requirements selected above, and provide enforcement mechanism
- Other describe:

17.10 Investigations and Prosecutions

Describe the Grantee's procedures for investigating and prosecuting reports of fraud, and any sanctions placed on clients/staff/vendors found to have committed fraud.

- Refer to state Inspector General
- Refer to local prosecutor or state Attorney General
- Refer to US DHHS Inspector General (including referral to OIG hotline)

\boxtimes	Local agencies/district offices or Grantee conduct investigation of fraud complaints
	from public
	Grantee attempts collection of improper payments. If so, describe the recoupment
	process.
	Clients found to have committed fraud are banned from LIHEAP assistance. For how
	long is a household banned?
	Contracts with local agencies require that employees found to have committed
	fraud are reprimanded and/or terminated
\square	Vendors found to have committed fraud may no longer participate in LIHEAP
	Other — describes:

If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

Filename: 00 4993 LIHEAP State Plan FY 21 Draft

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Department of Energy and Environment

Attachment 3: Appeal Rights Notice for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

If you disagree with DOEE's decision on your LIHEAP application, you may appeal the decision by requesting a fair hearing at the District's Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). You **MUST request a hearing within 90 calendar days of the date on the attached letter or lose your right to appeal.**

How to request a hearing:

- 1. Call 311 and ask for a fair hearing at the Office of Administrative Hearings, OAH.
- 2. Submit a written request to the following address: OAH LIHEAP Appeal, 441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 450 North, Washington, D.C. 20001.
- 3. Visit OAH's office at: 441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 450 North, Washington, D.C. 20001, in person and complete a written request for a fair hearing.

Hearings: You have the right to be represented by legal counsel or by a lay person who is not an employee of the District at your hearing. You can ask for free legal services that might be available to you and you may bring witnesses. The District will pay reasonable expenses related to the hearing, such as transportation costs for you and your witnesses. OAH will notify you of the date and time that you must appear for the hearing.

Interpretation and Language Access Services: If you or a witness require assistance or translation services, you can ask OAH to provide an interpreter.

Reasons to appeal your LIHEAP decision:

- 1. DOEE denied your application;
- 2. The LIHEAP payment is less than you believe it should be; or
- 3. The credit on your account is less than DOEE told you it would be.

NOTE: You MUST request a hearing within 90 calendar days of the date on the attached letter or lose your right to appeal.

Authority: DC Administrative Procedures Act, DC Official Code 2-509; Public Asst. Act, DC Official Code 4-210.04. See 1 DCMR 2970-78, OAH Public Benefits Regulations. Filename: 00 Appeal Rights Notice.docx Revision date: 02-24-20





Attachment 2 - Regular Benefits DOEE's LIHEAP Regular Benefits Table for FY 2021 See below for explanation

Explanation Key: How to use this table

Use this table to determine how much of a LIHEAP benefit a household may receive for this fiscal year.

 Step 1:
 Before you start working through the table, you must see if the household is eligible for a LIHEAP benefit. That will depend on the size of the household and the combined income of its members.

 A household is people who live together. It may be one person, a family, or another group who share the home.

Income Limits for FY 2021

1 person	\$37,575	5 people \$83,822
2 people	\$49,137	6 people \$95,383
3 people	\$60,698	Additional guidelines are calculated by taking 132% plus 3 percentage points for each
4 people	\$72,260	household member above six multiplied by the guideline for a household of four.

IF the household income is less than the income limit for the persons, go to step 2. IF NOT, the household is ineligible.

- Step 2: Next, is your house a "single family" home (SF) or "multifamily" (MF)? Multifamily usually means apartments. Go to the section that lists the "Home Type" group for you -- SF or MF.
- Step 3:
 Now, find the "Income Household's" line for the number of "People" in your home.

 This is the number on the table that is just lower than your combined household income.

 Example:
 If you are in an apartment with 4 people, and your annual income is \$4100, you would go the line that says MF 4000 4.
- Step 4:
 Find the home heating source for your home. That tells you the maximum benefit for you.

 Example of a household living in a multifamily building, with an income of \$4,000, four people in the household, and a gas heated home.

 The maximum benefit is \$1800, which may be applied to the electric bill.

 The oil benefit is never more than \$1500. But, you can instruct DOEE to pay the utility company that supplies cooking electricity or gas

Example of a household living in a multifamily building, with an income of \$4,000, four people in the household, and an oil heated home MF 4000 4: Instead of paying the oil company, you can have DOEE pay a maximum of \$1,471 electric or \$883 gas. If your utilities are included in your rent, so that Heat is In Rent (HIR), the benefit can never be more than \$250,

paid directly to your utility company for your electric or gas used for cooking or light, etc. DOEE pays the utility company directly.

Note: For households with greater than four people, use the benefit line for "4" people. (This table continues on the next page.)

А	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н	J	L	М	Ν	0	Р	Q
Home Type	Household Income	People	Benefit Type	Benefit	Total Benefit for Solar for All Client	BenefitT ype	Benefit	But, pay vendor Gas	But, pay vendor \$ Electric	Benefit Type	Benefit	Total Benefit for Solar for All Client	Benefit Type	Benefit: to pay elec or gas
MF	C) 1	Gas	\$1,045	\$545	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,139	\$683	Electric	\$729	\$250	HIR	250
MF	C) 2	Gas	\$1,229	\$729	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,339	\$803	Electric	\$857	\$357	HIR	250
MF	C) 3	Gas	\$1,290	\$790	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,406	\$844	Electric	\$943	\$443	HIR	250
MF	C) 4	Gas	\$1,536	\$1,036	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,500	\$900	Electric	\$1,071	\$571	HIR	250
MF	2000) 1	Gas	\$995	\$495	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,084	\$650	Electric	\$694	\$250	HIR	250
MF	2000) 2	Gas	\$1,170	\$670	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,275	\$765	Electric	\$816	\$316	HIR	250
MF	2000) 3	Gas	\$1,229	\$729	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,339	\$803	Electric	\$898	\$398	HIR	250
MF	2000		Gas	\$1,463	\$963	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,500	\$900	Electric	\$1,020	\$520	HIR	250
MF	4000) 1	Gas	\$918	\$421	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,000	\$600	Electric	\$653	\$250	HIR	250
MF	4000) 2	Gas	\$1,080	\$580	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,177	\$706	Electric	\$768	\$268	HIR	250
MF	4000) 3	Gas	\$1,134	\$634	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,236	\$742	Electric	\$845	\$345	HIR	250
MF	4000) 4	Gas	\$1,350	\$850	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,471	\$883	Electric	\$960	\$460	HIR	250
MF	6000) 1	Gas	\$842	\$386	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$917	\$550	Electric	\$632	\$250	HIR	250
MF	6000		Gas	\$990	\$490	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,079	\$647	Electric	\$744	\$250	HIR	250
MF	6000) 3		\$1,040	\$540	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,133	\$680	Electric	\$818	\$318	HIR	250
MF	6000) 4	Gas	\$1,238	\$738	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,349	\$809	Electric	\$930	\$430	HIR	250
MF	8000		Gas	\$765	\$351	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$833	\$500	Electric	\$469	\$250	HIR	250
MF	8000		Gas	\$900	\$413	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$981	\$589	Electric	\$552	\$250	HIR	250
MF	8000) 3	Gas	\$945	\$445	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,030	\$618	Electric	\$607	\$250	HIR	250
MF	8000		Gas	\$1,125	\$625	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,226	\$736	Electric	\$690	\$250	HIR	250
MF	10000		Gas	\$727	\$333	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$792	\$475	Electric	\$449	\$250	HIR	250
MF	10000) 2	Gas	\$855	\$392	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$931	\$559	Electric	\$528	\$250	HIR	250
MF	10000		Gas	\$898	\$412	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$978	\$587	Electric	\$581	\$250	HIR	250
MF	10000		000	\$1,069	\$569	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,165	\$699	Electric	\$660	\$250	HIR	250
MF	12000		Gas	\$689	\$316	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$751	\$451	Electric	\$367	\$250	HIR	250
MF	12000) 2	Gas	\$810	\$371	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$882	\$529	Electric	\$432	\$250	HIR	250

Attachment 2 - Regular Benefits DOEE's LIHEAP Regular Benefits Table for FY 2021 See below for explanation

								signal latter						
Home Type	Household Income	People	Benefit Type	Benefit	Total Benefit for Solar for All Client	BenefitT ype	Benefit	But, pay vendor	But, pay vendor \$	Benefit Type	Benefit	Total Benefit for Solar for All Client	Benefit Type	Benefit: to pay elec or gas
								Gas	Electric					
MF	12000	3	Gas	\$851	\$390	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$927	\$556	Electric	\$475	\$250	HIR	250
MF	12000	4	Gas	\$1,013	\$513	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,104	\$662	Electric	\$540	\$250	HIR	250
MF	14000	1	000	\$650	\$298	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$708		Electric	\$347	\$250	HIR	250
MF	14000		Gas	\$765	\$351	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$833		Electric	\$408	\$250	HIR	250
MF	14000		Gas	\$803	\$368	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$875		Electric	\$449	\$250	HIR	250
MF	14000	4	Gas	\$956	\$456	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,042		Electric	\$510	\$250	HIR	250
MF	16000	1	Gas	\$574	\$263	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$625	\$375	Electric	\$306	\$250	HIR	250
MF	16000		Gas	\$675	\$310	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$735		Electric	\$360	\$250	HIR	250
MF	16000		Gas	\$709 \$244	\$325	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$772		Electric	\$396	\$250	HIR	250
MF MF	16000	4		\$844 \$450	\$387 \$250	Oil	\$ 1,500 \$ 1,500	\$919 \$500		Electric	\$450 \$250	\$250	HIR	250
MF	18000 18000	1	Gas Gas	\$459 \$540	\$250 \$248	Oil Oil	\$ 1,500 \$ 1,500	\$500 \$588		Electric Electric	\$250 \$250	\$250 \$250	HIR HIR	250 250
MF	18000		Gas	\$540 \$567	\$240 \$260	Oil	\$ 1,500 \$ 1,500	\$508 \$618		Electric	\$250 \$250	\$250 \$250	HIR	250
MF	18000	4	-	\$675	\$310	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$735	\$441	Electric	\$250	\$250 \$250	HIR	250
SF	00000	1	Gas	\$1,277	\$777	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,391	\$835	Electric	\$948	\$448	HIR	250
SF	0	2		\$1,502	\$1,002	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,500		Electric	\$1,116	\$616	HIR	250
SF	0	3		\$1,577	\$1,077	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,500		Electric	\$1,227	\$727	HIR	250
SF	0	4	~	\$1,800	\$1,300	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,500		Electric	\$1,394	\$894	HIR	250
SF	2000	1	Gas	\$1,216	\$716	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,325	\$795	Electric	\$903	\$403	HIR	250
SF	2000	2	Gas	\$1,430	\$930	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,500	\$900	Electric	\$1,063	\$563	HIR	250
SF	2000	3	Gas	\$1,502	\$1,002	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,500	\$900	Electric	\$1,169	\$669	HIR	250
SF	2000	4	Gas	\$1,788	\$1,288	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,500	\$900	Electric	\$1,328	\$828	HIR	250
SF	4000	1	Gas	\$1,122	\$622	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,222	\$733	Electric	\$850	\$350	HIR	250
SF	4000	2	Gas	\$1,320	\$820	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,438	\$863	Electric	\$1,000	\$500	HIR	250
SF	4000	3	Gas	\$1,386	\$886	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,500		Electric	\$1,100	\$600	HIR	250
SF	4000	4		\$1,650	\$1,150	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,500		Electric	\$1,250	\$750	HIR	250
SF	6000		Gas	\$1,029	\$529	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,121	\$673	Electric	\$823	\$323	HIR	250
SF	6000	2		\$1,210	\$710	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,318		Electric	\$969	\$469	HIR	250
SF	6000		Gas	\$1,271	\$771	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,385	\$831	Electric	\$1,066	\$566	HIR	250
SF	6000		Gas	\$1,513	\$1,013	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,500		Electric	\$1,211	\$711 ©250	HIR	250
SF	8000	1		\$935	\$435 \$600	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,019	\$611	Electric	\$611 ¢710	\$250	HIR	250
SF SF	8000	2		\$1,100	\$600 \$655	Oil Oil	\$ 1,500 \$ 1,500	\$1,199	\$719 \$755	Electric	\$719 \$791	\$250	HIR	250
SF	8000 8000	3	Gas Gas	\$1,155 \$1,375	\$655 \$875	Oil	\$ 1,500 \$ 1,500	\$1,258 \$1,498		Electric Electric	\$898	\$291 \$398	HIR HIR	250 250
SF	10000	4	~	\$888	\$407	Oil	\$ 1,500 \$ 1,500	\$967		Electric	\$584	\$398 \$250	HIR	250 250
SF	10000	2		\$1,045	\$545	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,139	\$683	Electric	\$688	\$250	HIR	250
SF	10000		Gas	\$1,097	\$597	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,195		Electric	\$756	\$256	HIR	250
SF	10000	4	-	\$1,306	\$806	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,423	\$854	Electric	\$859	\$359	HIR	250
SF	12000	1	Gas	\$842	\$386	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$917		Electric	\$478	\$250	HIR	250
SF	12000	2		\$990	\$490	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,079	\$647	Electric	\$563	\$250	HIR	250
SF	12000	3	Gas	\$1,040	\$540	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,133	\$680	Electric	\$619	\$250	HIR	250
SF	12000	4	Gas	\$1,238	\$738	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,349	\$809	Electric	\$703	\$250	HIR	250
SF	14000	1	Gas	\$795		Oil	\$ 1,500	\$866	\$520	Electric	\$452	\$250	HIR	250
SF	14000	2	Gas	\$935	\$435	Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,019	\$611	Electric	\$531	\$250	HIR	250
SF	14000		Gas	\$982		Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,070		Electric	\$584		HIR	250
SF	14000		Gas	\$1,169		Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,274		Electric	\$664		HIR	250
SF	16000		Gas	\$701		Oil	\$ 1,500	\$764		Electric	\$398	\$250	HIR	250
SF	16000		Gas	\$825		Oil	\$ 1,500	\$899		Electric	\$469	\$250	HIR	250
SF	16000		Gas	\$866		Oil	\$ 1,500	\$943		Electric	\$516	\$250	HIR	250
SF	16000		Gas	\$1,031		Oil	\$ 1,500	\$1,123		Electric	\$586	\$250		250
SF	18000		Gas	\$561 \$660	\$257		\$ 1,500	\$611		Electric	\$250	\$250		250
SF SF	18000 18000		Gas Gas	\$660 \$693	\$303 \$318		\$ 1,500 \$ 1,500	\$719 \$755		Electric	\$250 \$250	\$250 \$250		250 250
SF	18000		Gas Gas	\$693 \$825	\$318 \$378		\$ 1,500 \$ 1,500	\$755 \$899		Electric Electric	\$250 \$273	\$250 \$250		250 250
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