



Administration for Children and Families

Office of Community Services
Division of Energy Assistance

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Weatherization

Matt Orlovick
Office of Community Services

March 1, 2013



LIHEAP Overview

- LIHEAP is a block grant program to States, Territories, and Tribes
- Funds provide heating and cooling assistance to low-income families
- States are allowed the option of using up to 15% of their LIHEAP funds for low-cost weatherization, and may apply for a waiver to use up to 25%



LIHEAP funds for Weatherization

- LIHEAP has received appropriations between 3 and 3.5 billion dollars in recent years
- 40 States supplement their WAP program with LIHEAP weatherization funding, at various levels
 - Potential weatherization contribution
 - Actual weatherization contribution
- Potential effects of budget cuts



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Rules for LIHEAP Weatherization

- Funds are for “low-cost residential weatherization or other energy-related home repair”
- Limitations on weatherization activities



Weatherization Waivers

- States may ask for a waiver to spend up to 25% of their LIHEAP funds
- Requirements for waiver to be granted
 - Level of effort
 - Effectiveness
 - “Good Cause” exception



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Other funding sources



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Leveraging Incentive Program

- The LIHEAP leveraging incentive program rewards LIHEAP grantees that have acquired non-federal home energy resources for low-income households
- Available leveraging funds are distributed to all grantees that apply, based proportionately on the value of their reported resources
- Funding can be up to \$50 million
- Awarded funds can be used for weatherization, and do not count against the 15% cap



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Residential Energy Assistance Challenge (REACH) Program



Residential Energy Assistance Challenge (REACH) Program

- Competitive grant opportunity available only to current LIHEAP grantees.
- REACH is designed to address four issues:
 1. Minimize health and safety risks that result from high energy burdens on low-income Americans;
 2. Reduce home energy vulnerability and prevent homelessness as a result of inability to pay energy bills;
 3. **Increase the efficiency of energy usage by low-income families, helping them achieve energy self-sufficiency;** and
 4. Target energy assistance to individuals who are most in need.



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REACH

- Proposals must address home energy and health and safety issues, and must be innovative.
- Funding is small (nearly \$1.5 million in FY 2012)



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Previously Funded Proposals

- Indiana received a grant to target home energy management services to vulnerable households. The program is intended to help clients manage their monthly energy expenses and provide up to \$150 per household for annual maintenance to the primary heating source, as well as money for minor home repairs.
- Wisconsin received a grant to assist 3,000 targeted households from Racine County with arrearage reduction. Some households will also receive energy-efficient appliances.



Integration of LIHEAP and WAP

- Eligibility levels
- Enrollment simplification
- Utilizing advantages of each program
- Administrative pitfalls



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Matt Orlovick

202-260-5329

Matthew.Orlovick@acf.hhs.gov