

FY 2023 Louisiana Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Model Plan

The mission of the Louisiana Housing Corporation is to ensure that every Louisiana resident is granted an opportunity to obtain safe, affordable, energy efficient housing.

The goal of the Louisiana Housing Corporation Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is to reduce the national and state consumption of fossil fuels and imported oil and assist eligible low income families reduce their residential heating and cooling energy costs.

Components of the FY2023 LA LIHEAP Program

- Heating Assistance 11/15/2022 – 3/15/2023
- Cooling Assistance 4/1/2023 – 9/30/2023
- Crisis Assistance 10/1/2022 – 9/30/2023
- Weatherization Assistance 7/1/2023 – 6/30/2024

Allocation of FY2023 Funding

The percentages of funds used to operate each of the components are:

- Heating Assistance 25.00%
- Cooling Assistance 40.50% (FY2022 37.50%)
- Crisis Assistance 10.00%
- Weatherization Assistance 12.00% (FY2022 15.00%)
- Administrative 10.00%
- Assurance 16 (Client Education) 2.50%

Moved **3.00%** from **Weatherization Assistance to Cooling Assistance** in preparation for the \$30.9 million that the State of Louisiana will receive from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) from the Bi-Partisan Law (BIL) for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). DOE BIL WAP funds are subject to performance and production. Funds are expected to release at the end of 2022. Louisiana also experienced unprecedented cooling bill charges in 2022 leading to an increased need in cooling assistance.

Eligibility and Monitoring

- Program will use 60% of the State’s median income to determine eligibility
- Clients are eligible once for each of the 4 components.
- 39 Sub-grantees serving 64 parishes for utility assistance
- 6 Sub-grantees serving 64 parishes for weatherization assistance

LIHEAP Heating and Cooling Benefit Matrix

- Changed maximum Crisis benefit from \$600 to \$1000.

FY2023 Plan Changes from FY2022

- **Section 1.4** Added the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) to programs that categorically qualify individuals for LIHEAP. LHC has the ability to process both benefits within the same LIHEAP/LIHWAP application.
- **Section 1.6** Added “Clients are still seen on a first come - first serve basis unless a crisis exists.”
- **Section 1.9** The following income types were added or removed to align with the Louisiana LIHEAP Service Delivery Guide:
 - Added:
 - Insurance payments made directly to the insured.
 - Other:
 - ❖ Military family allotments
 - ❖ Net gaming winnings
 - ❖ Net rental income
 - ❖ Net receipts from self-employment
 - ❖ Net royalties
 - ❖ Periodic receipts from estates or trusts
 - ❖ Regular Contributions that are not loans to be re-paid.
 - ❖ Training stipends
 - ❖ Worker's compensation benefits.
 - Removed:
 - Balance of retirement, pension, or annuity accounts where funds cannot be withdrawn without a penalty.
- **Section 4.7** Removed some of the wording regarding documentation requirements that may establish a crisis situation – “and/or evidence of an economic hardship-monthly expenses and income”. This is to align with the Louisiana LIHEAP Service Delivery Guide.
- **Section 4.9** Changed the “not to exceed” benefit from \$600 to \$1000.
- **Sections 4.12, 4.13, & 4.15** Changed the Year-round Crisis maximum benefit from \$600 to \$1000.
- **Section 5.11** Changed wording on “Other – Describe” from “Minor repairs” to “Minor repairs/Weatherization readiness”
- **Section 7.1** Added “Louisiana is using a joint application for LIHEAP and LIHWAP (Water/Wastewater).”

- **Section 8.8** Changed from Yes to No - Have you changed any local administering agencies in the last year?
- **Section 8.9** Removed the explanation from the previous year.
- **Section 9.1** “There are 19 out of 181 energy vendors that are not set up to receive payments directly from the LHC.” Changed from 22 out of 195.
- **Section 10.8** Removed “In 2020/2021, LHC hired a 3rd party consultant via RFP to perform Subgrantee full assessments and subsequent training to ensure programmatic changes over the last 3 years have been adopted and to assess where LHC can provide additional resources. LHC will begin monitoring internally again in 2022.” Added “LHC will begin on-site monitoring in the Fall of 2022 (post COVID-19).”
- **Section 10.11** FY2022 – 8 (Subject to next monitoring)
- **Section 10.12** FY2022 – 3 (Subject to next monitoring)
- **Sections 11.1 – 11.6** Updated entire sections based upon public participation, Policy Advisory Council, and public hearing comments.
- **Sections 12.4 & 12.6** Updated entire section to coincide with the appeal guideline updates to the Louisiana LIHEAP Service Delivery Guide.
- **Section 13.3** Updated – “LHC’s software reported 62,185 households benefitted from Assurance 16 funds this year. The LHC is currently working with sub-grantees to utilize FY 2022 Client Education funds prior to the end of the 09/30/2023.”
- **Section 13.6** Updated to 62,185.
- **Section 15.1.a** Added NEAUC.
- **Section 16.1** Updated – “LHC has worked with APPRISE, our HES software Developer, and LHC Technical Support department to collect the required performance data. There is still some trouble converting and matching the data received from the vendors to achieve an unduplicated count. LHC has sent the FY21 Performance Data to Apprise and is awaiting response as of 8/19/2022. In November 2020 (FFY 2021), LHC released the full version of the Hancock LIHEAP Cloud software which has promised improvement to Performance Measure tracking. In October 2022, we will begin requesting vendor data for FY2022 and anticipate continued improvement in data collection as we have increased Subgrantee training.”

- **Section 17.5** Updated language from “Food Stamp (SNAP) certification letter or printout dated with 30 days of application date for verification of Social Security benefits.” to “*Food Stamp (SNAP) certification letter or printout dated within 12 months of application date for verification of Social Security benefits, *Verification of Employment, *Self Certification as last resort”

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