
ATTENTION OF:
All Louisiana Low Income Home Energy
Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Providers

Memorandum: LA LIHEAP 03
ISSUED: March 23, 2020

SUBJECT: Louisiana Stay at Home Order in Response to COVID-19 – Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Impact

On March 22, 2020, Governor John Bel Edwards issued Proclamation Number 33 JBE 2020, Additional Measures for COVID-19 Stay At Home. This order places further restrictions on businesses and increases the Stay at Home order previously issued in Proclamation Number 30 JBE 2020.

This order hereby requires all individuals within the State of Louisiana to be under a general stay-at-home order and are directed to stay home unless performing an essential activity as defined by the order.

In response to this order, the Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) is hereby suspending all Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) non-administrative activities, including intake and client eligibility, beginning at 5:00 p.m on Monday, March 23, 2020 to Monday, April 13, 2020, unless terminated by the Governor of Louisiana sooner.

This decision has been made to protect the health and safety of the clients the LIHEAP serves as well as our partners that interact daily to ensure these services are delivered.

The LIHEAP 2020 Cooling Season start date will be postponed from April 1, 2020 to Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

Crisis intake will be suspended until Tuesday, April 14, 2020. The Louisiana Public Service Commission issued Executive Order Number March 13, 2020 ordering all Public Utilities subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission from disconnecting customers for non-payment of utility bills statewide. In addition to the jurisdiction of the Commission, some local governments which are regulated by local officials and exempt from the jurisdiction have also made the decision to suspend disconnects for non-payment. This does not mean that citizens should not pay their utility bill if they are able to. Preventing disconnects does not mean that

citizens will not owe for unpaid services once this order is lifted. For further information, please visit lpsc.louisiana.gov.

Subgrantees may continue to perform and be reimbursed for administrative functions related to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program assuming those activities can be performed from home and without face-to-face interaction. Subgrantees may also be reimbursed for allocable leave (i.e. sick or vacation) taken by LIHEAP employees which is normally a function of the Administration and Program Support cost categories.

The LHC will continue to perform administrative functions for the LIHEAP during this time, including invoice processing for Subgrantees and allocating new funds.

For further information regarding COVID-19, please visit the Louisiana Department of Health's website at www.ldh.la.gov.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this Memorandum, please contact Lauren Holmes, Program Administrator at lhartley@lhc.la.gov.