



# Understanding LIHEAP Assurance 16

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# LIHEAP Statute

## APPLICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

### Section 2605.

(b) As part of the annual application required by subsection (a), the chief executive officer of each State shall certify that the State agrees to—

(1) to (15) ...and,

(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.

*Note: First introduced into the LIHEAP statute in 1994*

# Components of Assurance 16

(b) ... each State shall certify that **the State agrees to**—

- ... use up to 5 percent of funds, **at its option**
- ... **services** that encourage and enable households to **reduce their home energy needs**
- ... including needs **assessments**, **counseling**, and **assistance** with energy vendors
- ... and **report to the Secretary** the impact of such activities

# Assurance 16 is NOT...

- Outreach – Designing outreach materials, conducting outreach activities
- Intake – Working with the client to complete the LIHEAP application
- Crisis Determination – Assessing whether the client is in crisis
- Benefit Determination – Using the information supplied by the client to determine their benefit

# Assurance 16 can be...

- Vendor Advocacy – Helping the client to communicate effectively with the vendor to maintain service
- Needs Assessment and Referral – Reviewing the client's case record and identifying the most appropriate referrals
- Energy Education – Furnishing information about how to reduce energy usage and obtain energy efficiency services
- Financial Counseling – Working with the client to improve financial management skills and proactively manage energy bills

# Assurance 16 is ...

- Case Management – Short Term
  - Developing information and materials about services available to LIHEAP clients
  - Developing an understanding of a client's needs and offering counseling during LIHEAP intake
- Case Management – Longer Term
  - Developing a curriculum and training materials for service delivery
  - Working with clients on energy education and/or financial counseling over an extended time period

# Assurance 16 Statistics

- FFY 2014 Grantee Statistics
  - 23 state grantees and 2 territories funded Assurance 16 program activities
  - Grantees spent over \$40 million to serve 1.6 million clients with A16 services (\$24 per client)
  - Range for spending per client was \$5 per client to about \$1,500 per client

# Assurance 16 Statistics

- FFY 2014 Spending per Client
  - 20 grantees had spending per client of \$50 or less ...  
mostly short term case management activities
  - 5 grantees had spending of more than \$50 per client ...  
mostly longer-term case management activities

# Program Examples

- FFY 2016 Minnesota Program
  - 75% allocated to “Responsive A16 programs” which usually are programs delivered at the time of intake
  - 25% allocated to “Proactive A16 programs” which are usually longer-term (3-6 month) interventions with clients

# Program Examples

- FFY 2017 Delaware Program
  - First State Community Action Agency delivers a portfolio of programs, including:
    - Heating System Repair and Replacement
    - Healthy Homes Services
    - Longer-Term Energy Education
  - Delaware A16 program pays for the energy education component

# Program Examples

- FFY 2017 Arkansas Program
  - Arkansas program pre-dates the 1994 legislation that explicitly listed Assurance 16
  - Central Arkansas Development Council program includes:
    - Workshops
    - One-on-One Counseling
    - Independent Activity
  - Client receives assistance payments for completing A16 training activities

# Program Examples

- FFY 2017 New Hampshire Program is focused on preventing this years' crisis recipients from being crisis recipients next year ...

# Assurance 16 is NOT...

## **INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR LEVERAGING NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES**

### **Section 2607A.**

...A State may expend funds allocated under this title as are necessary, not to exceed 0.08 percent of such allocation or \$35,000 each fiscal year, whichever is greater, to identify, develop, and demonstrate leveraging programs. Funds allocated under this section shall only be used for increasing or maintaining benefits to households.

# Contact Information



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