

# LIHEAP 101: The Basics and Beyond



# What is LIHEAP?



- Federal program enacted in 1981 to assist low-income households with energy needs.
- Grantees (states, tribes, territories) receive allotments of funds from the federal government.
- Grantees have quite a bit of discretion to determine:
  - How to use funds
  - Which households are income eligible (while staying within federal guidelines)

# Block Grant = Flexibility



- **LIHEAP Statute Section 2605(b):**
  - “The Secretary may not prescribe the manner in which the State will comply with the provisions of this subsection.”
    - The subsection contains the 16 assurances
- **Block grant regulations at 45 CFR 96.50(e)**
  - Grantees are primarily responsible for interpreting statute
  - Individual grantees may reach different interpretations of the statute
  - HHS defers to grantee’s interpretation unless it is “clearly erroneous”

# Use of LIHEAP Funds



## Assurance One

- ✓ Conduct outreach and provide assistance to help low-income households meet their home energy needs
- ✓ Intervene in energy crisis situations
- ✓ Provide low cost weatherization



Most grantees spend the majority of funding on heating and cooling expenses

# LIHEAP Program Components

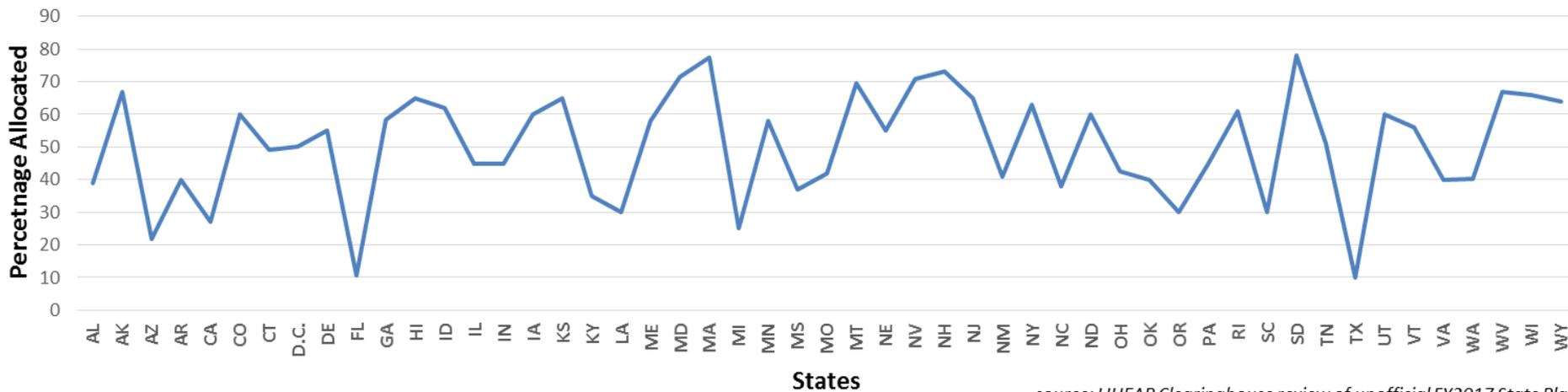


- **Historically speaking:**
  - Most state and tribal grantees provide heating assistance
  - About half of state grantees provide cooling programs

<b>FY 2017: States and Washington DC</b>	
<b>Component</b>	<b>Grantees Planning to Provide</b>
Heating	51
Cooling	23
Crisis	51
Weatherization	49
Assurance 16	34

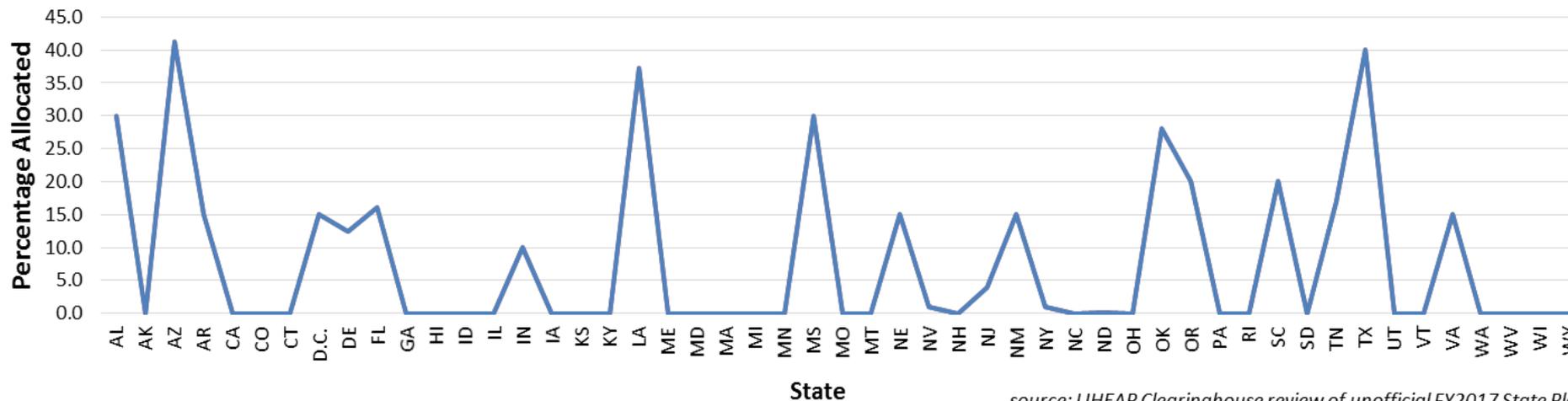
Source: LIHEAP Clearinghouse review of FY 2017 Plans

## FY 2017: State Grantee Percentage Allocated to Heating Program



source: LIHEAP Clearinghouse review of unofficial FY2017 State Plans

## FY 2017: State Grantee Percentage Allocated to Cooling Program



source: LIHEAP Clearinghouse review of unofficial FY2017 State Plans

# Crisis Assistance



- **LIHEAP Statute Section 2603:**

- “The term ‘energy crisis’ means weather- related and supply shortage emergencies and other household energy-related emergencies.”

48 Hours: Intervene to resolve a crisis after eligible household applies

18 Hours: Intervene to resolve a crisis situation that is life threatening

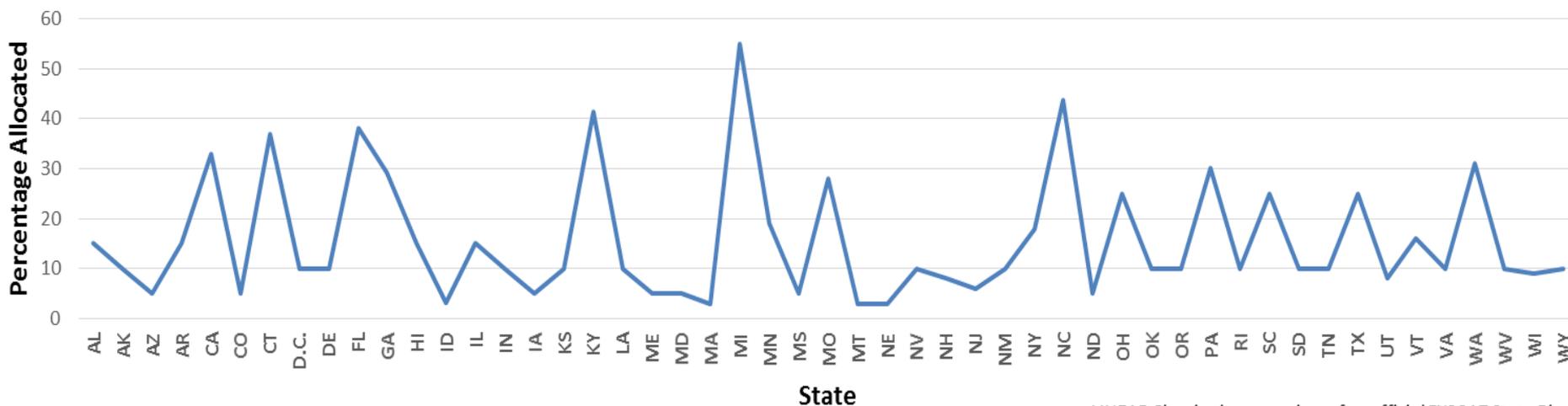
Grantees define crisis and set eligibility criteria



# Crisis Assistance



## FY 2017: State Grantee Percentage Allocated to Crisis Program



source: LIHEAP Clearinghouse review of unofficial FY2017 State Plans

For more on crisis programs, see this report: 



## Report

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### LIHEAP Crisis Components: *Requirements, Variations, Innovations*

**MAY 2014**  
**Report #2**

# Weatherization



- Optional: Up to 15% of funds or 25% with waiver
- Most state grantees provide weatherization.
- For many state grantees, same state agency administers the LIHEAP and DOE weatherization programs

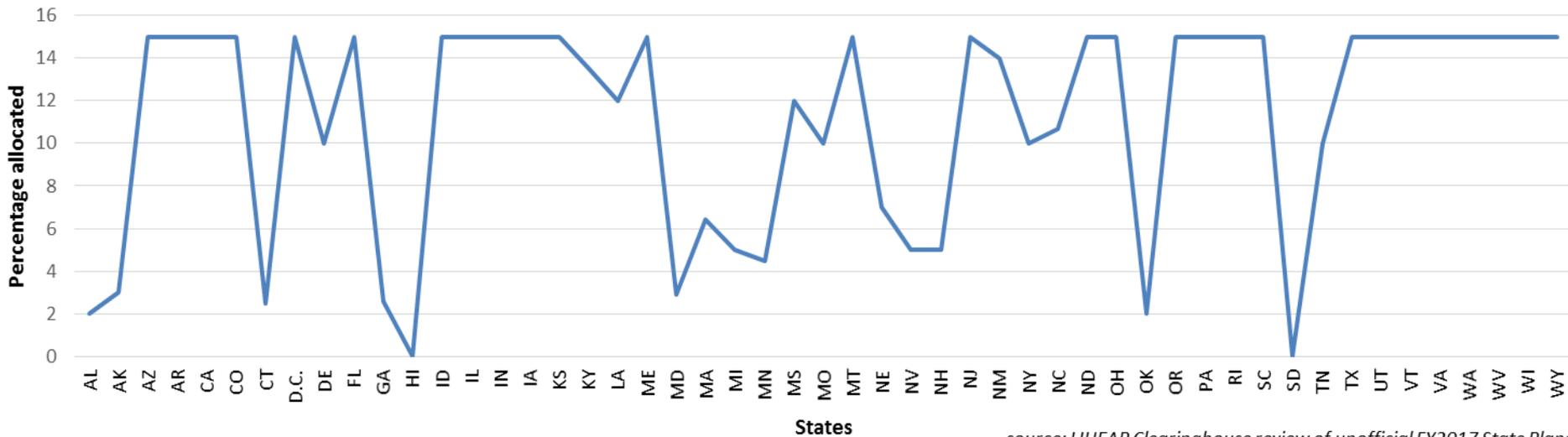


Photo courtesy of NCAT's Energy Corps Program

# Weatherization



**FY2017: State Grantees Percentage Allocated to Weatherization**



source: LIHEAP Clearinghouse review of unofficial FY2017 State Plans

For more on crisis programs, see this report:



**LIHEAP**  
CLEARINGHOUSE

**Report**

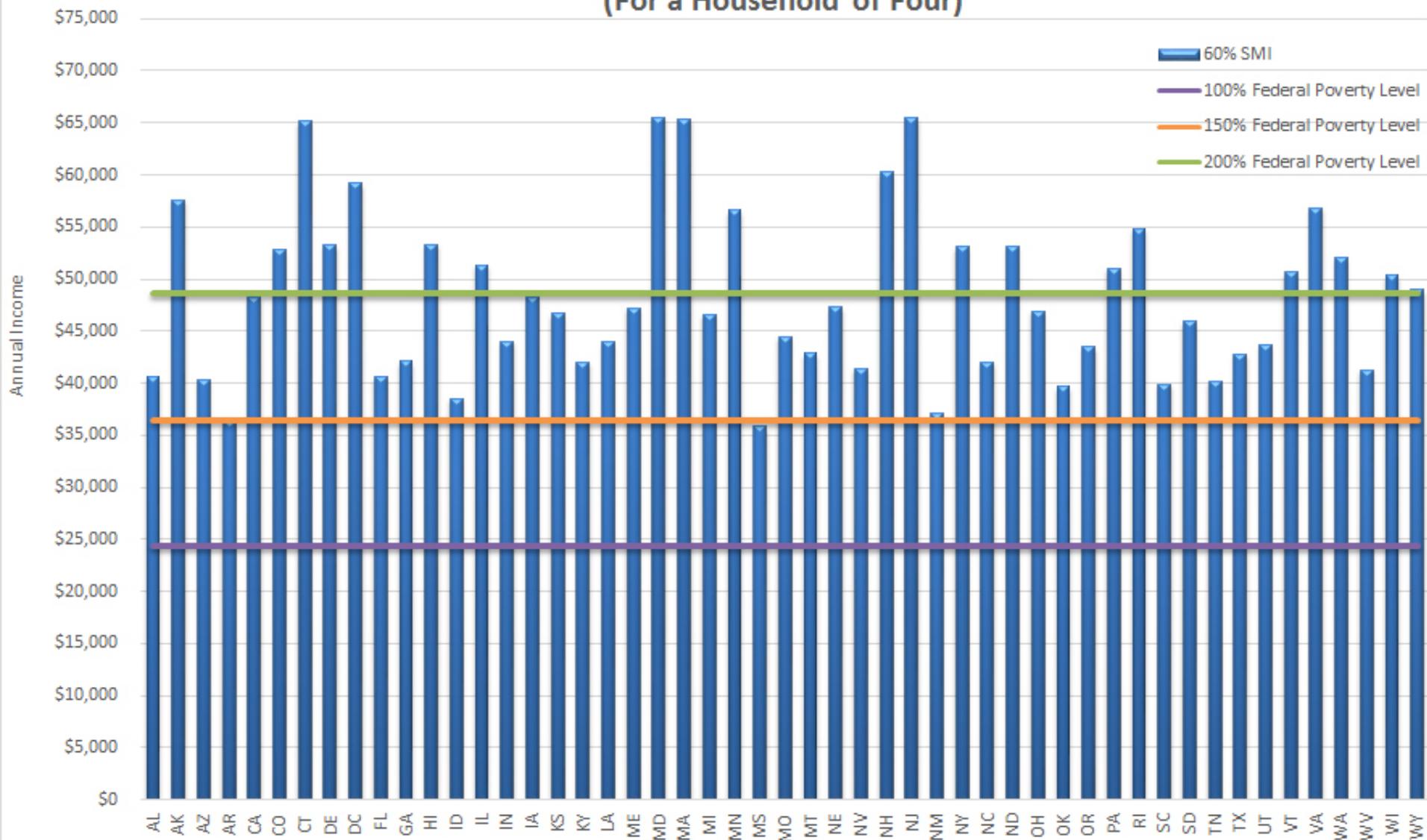
JULY 2016

**Weatherization: Coordinating LIHEAP and WAP**



**Resources for Coordinating LIHEAP and WAP**

## FY 2017 60% State Median Income by State (For a Household of Four)



# Categorical Eligibility



Can decide some households are automatically eligible for LIHEAP if at least one member is enrolled in one of these programs:

- TANF
- SNAP
- Supplemental Security Income
- Means-Tested Veteran Programs

# LIHEAP Benefits



**Assurance 5:** Requires highest benefits go to:

Households with lowest incomes

Highest energy costs

Highest energy needs



Must take household size into account

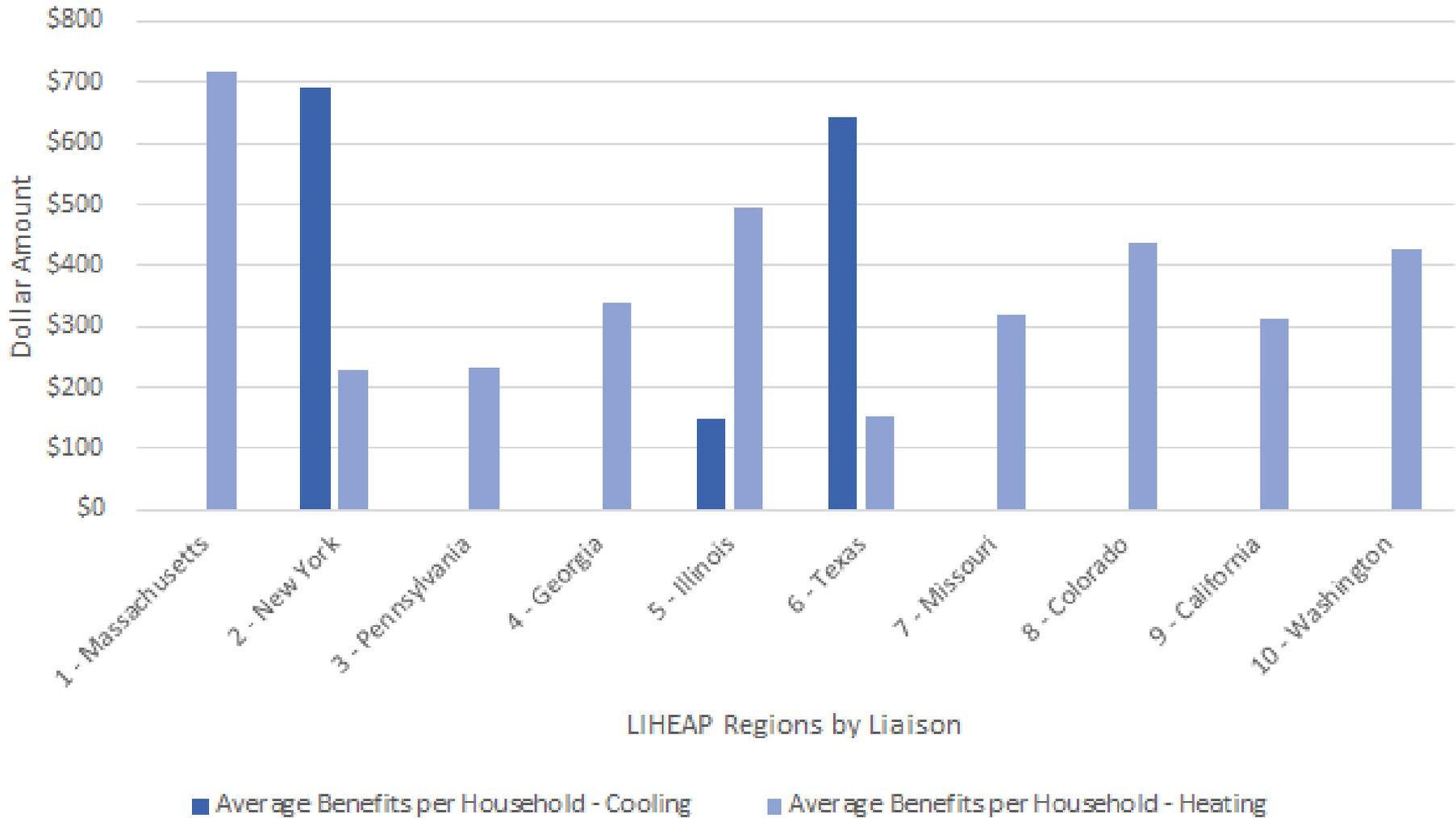
# Payment Matrix and Benefits



Propane				\$2,160		Annual consumption				
Vendor				1.6		per		1350 Gallons		FY 2017
	\$0 - 6199	6200-12399	12400-18599	18600-24799	24800-30999	31000-37199	37200-43399	43400-49599	49600-55799	55800-61999+
1	40% 864	35% 756	30% 648	25% 540	20%					
2	45% 972	40% 864	35% 756	30% 648	25% 540					
3	50% 1080	45% 972	40% 864	35% 756	30% 648	25% 540				
4	55% 1188	50% 1080	45% 972	40% 864	35% 756	30% 648	25% 540			
5	60% 1296	55% 1188	50% 1080	45% 972	40% 864	35% 756	30% 648	25% 540		
6	65% 1404	60% 1296	55% 1188	50% 1080	45% 972	40% 864	35% 756	30% 648	25% 540	
7	70% 1512	65% 1404	60% 1296	55% 1188	50% 1080	45% 972	40% 864	35% 756	30% 648	25% 540
8	75% 1620	70% 1512	65% 1404	60% 1296	55% 1188	50% 1080	45% 972	40% 864	35% 756	30% 648

Benefit levels are determined by taking a percentage of the average annual consumption and considering household size and income.

## Average LIHEAP Heating Benefit by Region: 2014



Source: LIHEAP Performance Management Website: <https://liheappm.acf.hhs.gov/>

# Who Administers LIHEAP?



**Assurance 6:** If grantees use local administrative agencies, they must give special consideration to agencies that received funding under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 for low-income energy assistance or weatherization services.

<b>State Grantees' Use of Local Administering Agencies (2017)</b>	
Community Action Agencies	30
County Government/Welfare Offices	12
Local Non-Profits	13
Central State Office	24

Source: LIHEAP Clearinghouse review of 2017 plans

**Tribes and Territories: Generally through a centralized office**

# Measuring Impact



## Performance Measurement Data Collection (States Only)

- Data for three Performance Measures:
  - Benefit Targeting Index and
  - Energy Burden Reduction Index
  - Preventing Loss of Home Energy Service
  - Restoring Home Energy Service
- Grantees have been building relationships with energy providers and getting procedures in place to gather and report.

# Performance Management Website





ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**  
LIHEAP Performance Management

MY PROFILE | LOGOUT  **NEED HELP WITH BILLS?**

Search this site  

Logged in as: **tmcadam**

HOME | REPORTS TO CONGRESS | DATA WAREHOUSE | GRANTEE RESOURCES | FORUM | IMPORTANT LINKS | WHAT'S NEW? | HELP | PMIWG | DASHBOARD | TA TRACKING

**Welcome to the LIHEAP Performance Management Website!**

This website provides resources, tools, and a dynamic Data Warehouse to help local program administrators, policymakers, and the public access performance management information and performance measurement data for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).



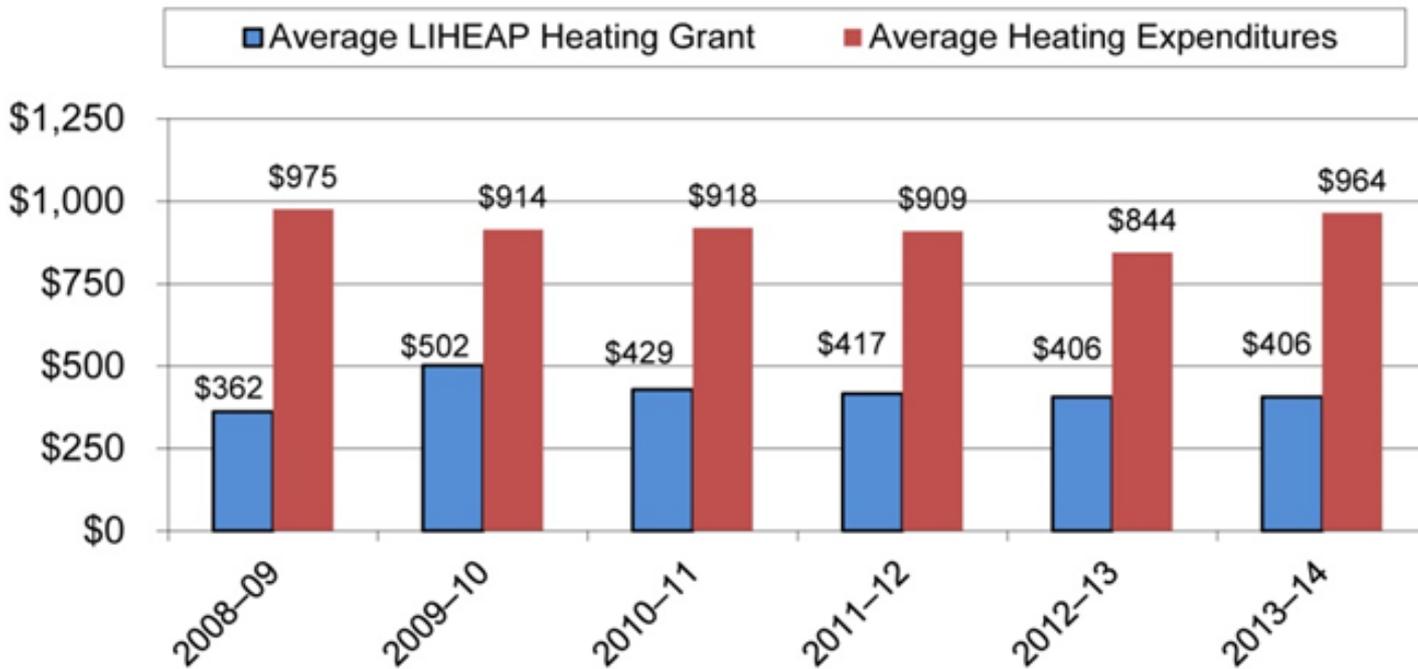
The LIHEAP Virtual Library

Performance Management website: <https://liheappm.acf.hhs.gov/>  
LIHEAP Virtual Library: <https://liheappm.acf.hhs.gov/assessment/#nbb>

# Additional Resources Needed



**National Expenditures for Heating Fuels vs. Average LIHEAP Grants  
FY2009 - FY2014**



Source: AARP Public Policy Institute, Winter Heating Costs Report, (January 2015)

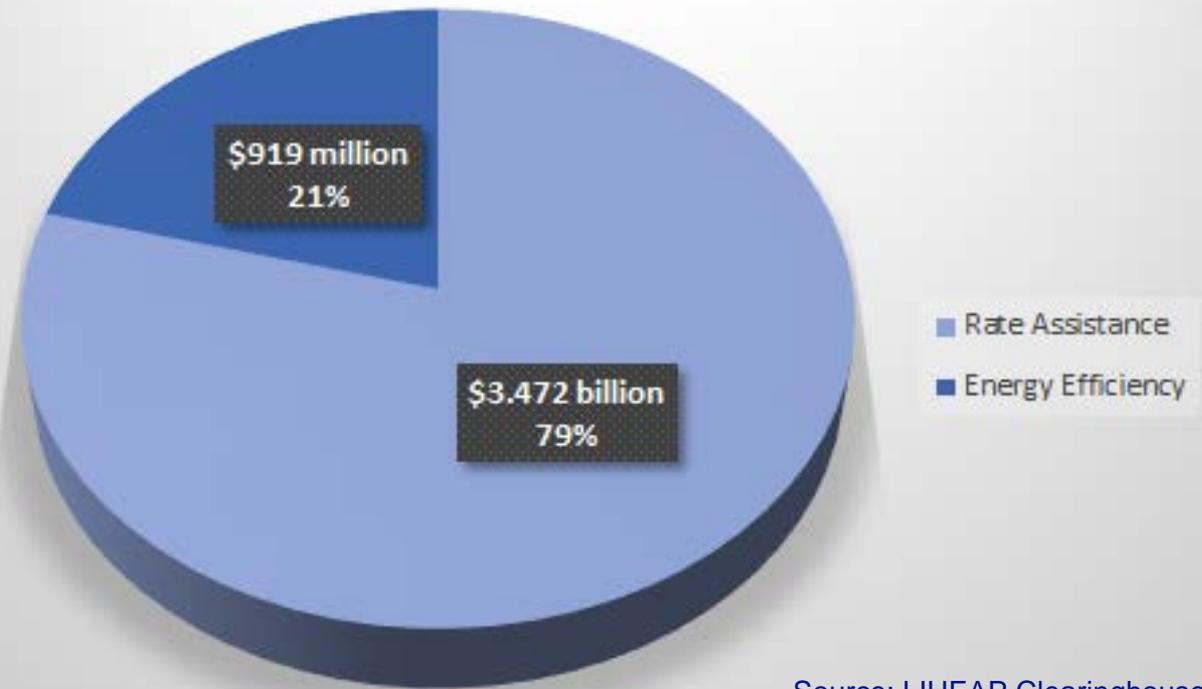
# Non-Federal Leveraging



Some non-federal sources pre-date LIHEAP itself.

For more,  
see profiles at:  
<https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/dereg.htm>

## 2014 Ratepayer Funded Low-Income Assistance



Source: LIHEAP Clearinghouse

# Contact the Clearinghouse



**LIHEAP Clearinghouse**  
<https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/>

**Erin Steuer, Project Director**  
[erins@ncat.org](mailto:erins@ncat.org)

**Marisa Larson, Program Specialist**  
[marisal@ncat.org](mailto:marisal@ncat.org)

**Allen Puckett, Program Specialist**  
[allenp@ncat.org](mailto:allenp@ncat.org)

**National Energy Assistance Referral**  
**1-866-674-6327**  
[energyassistance@ncat.org](mailto:energyassistance@ncat.org)

 <b>LIHEAP</b> CLEARINGHOUSE	<b>Issue Brief</b> MARCH 2016
<b>Collaboration Between LIHEAPs and Public Utility Commissions</b>	 <b>LIHEAPs and PUCs: Resources for Collaboration</b>

**Creating a Benefit Matrix**  
A Step-by-Step Interactive Guide

