

Tribal Session: Dialogue with Federal Officials



2016

**NATIONAL ENERGY UTILITY
AFFORDABILITY CONFERENCE**

**JUNE 6, 2016
DENVER, COLORADO**



TOPICS

2

- WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
- ASSURANCE 16 AND FINANCIAL CAPABILITY TRAINING
- OUTREACH AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND HEALTH INSURANCE REFERRALS
- BENEFIT MATRIX ESTIMATES
- TRIBE/STATE AGREEMENTS
- FEEDBACK



Welcome and Introductions

3

- All federal staff are in Washington, D.C. central office
- Contact information for each region's liaison:
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/resource/division-of-energy-assistance-federal-staff>
- Federal speakers today
 - **Lauren Christopher**, Director, Division of Energy Assistance (DEA)
 - **Akm Rahman**, Energy Program Operations Branch Chief
 - **Peter Edelman**, Program Analyst, Policy and Evaluation Branch
 - **Jamia Furbush**, Program Specialist, Operations Branch, Regions I and IV Liaison
 - **Kate Thomas**, Program Specialist, Operations Branch, Regions III and V Liaison

Assurance 16 and Financial Capability

Lauren Christopher

4

- Added to LIHEAP statute in 1994, Assurance 16 allows grantees to
 - use up to 5 percent of funds to provide services that encourage and enable households to reduce their home energy needs and thereby need for energy assistance
 - includes needs assessments, counseling, and assistance with energy vendors, and report to the Secretary concerning impact of activities on number of households served, level of direct benefits provided to those households, and number of households that remain unserved

Defining Assurance 16 Activities

5

- Like other Assurances, grantee is primary interpreter
- List of activities in statute not meant to be exhaustive
 - Health-focused messaging in activities
 - Partnerships with public health authorities in your State, Tribe, or Territory
 - Powerful tool to mitigate extreme heat-related health risks to vulnerable populations
- Please contact Federal LIHEAP liaison if not sure whether something is allowable

Assurance 16: Should you participate?

6

- Allows tribes option to use 5% of funds to help households to reduce energy bills through
 - Classes on energy conservation
 - Developing and following household budgets
 - Assistance with energy vendors
- Expands allowable activities
- Provides relief from administrative cost cap
- Increased tracking and reporting
- Activities could fit under multiple categories (e.g. crisis)

Benefit Matrix (Federal Requirements)

– Akm Rahman

7

LIHEAP Statutes: Section 2605 (b)(5)

(ASSURANCE 5) provide, in a timely manner, that the highest level of assistance will be furnished to those households which have the lowest incomes and the highest energy costs or needs in relation to income, taking into account family size...

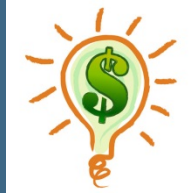


Benefit Matrix Explained

8



- Household Income.
- Up to 150% of FPL or 60% of estimated State Median Income.
- Not less than 110% of FPL.



- Home Energy Needs
- Heating and/or cooling costs.
- Average home energy costs
- Energy burden (cost/income)
- Fuel types: Deliverables vs. Utilities



- Household Size
- Single person (1)
- Single parent with one child (2)
- Two parents with two children (4)
- Two adults (2)
- Grandparents with one child (3)

Benefit Matrix

9

Scenario 1

Heating Benefits

- Propane: \$1,000 - \$100
- Electricity: \$650 - \$75
- Natural Gas: \$550 – \$65

Cooling Benefits

Electricity: \$500 - \$100

• Crisis Benefits

\$1,000 - \$200



Scenario 2

Heating Benefit

All fuel types: \$1,000 to \$100

Cooling Benefit

\$1,000 - \$100

Crisis Benefit

Same as above but provided with 18 to 48 hours



Benefit Matrix – Key Points

10

- LIHEAP allocation amount.
- Projected number of households to be served.
- Income Eligibility – Federal Poverty Level by Family Size.
- Home Energy Needs.
- Average heating or cooling costs.
- Average crisis amounts.
- Energy burden (Energy Cost/Household Income)

- Cost differences among deliverable fuel, electricity, natural gas, etc.
- Priority groups.
- Other local factors.



Outreach

Jamia Furbush

LIHEAP Statute, **Assurance 3**, notes,

“designed to assure that eligible households, especially households with elderly individuals or disabled individuals, or both, and households with high home energy burdens, are made aware of the assistance available” under the program.

- To promote and increase program awareness to potentially increase program enrollment.
- Activities designed to reach and enroll selected populations, also known as targeting.

Outreach examples:

- Mass mailings, flyers, posters, LIHEAP days, Provide intake services through home visits or by telephone for the physically infirm (i.e., elderly or disabled).
- Presentations at community & school meetings, off-site events for distribution (housing conferences, seminars, places of worship, community centers, etc.)
- Helping clients filling out their application.

Public Participation

12

LIHEAP is a Public Service Program!

Timely and Meaningful Public Participation is Important.

Timely = Start Early;
between June & July

Meaningful = Get Public
input & feedback.

Examples of Public Participation:

- Tribal Council Meetings.
- Public input meetings to collect public commentary & questions
- Draft plan made available for review on website (if applicable).
- Hard copy of plan to review and comment.

Feedback may help with completing the Model Plan.

Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Health Insurance

Kate Thomas

13

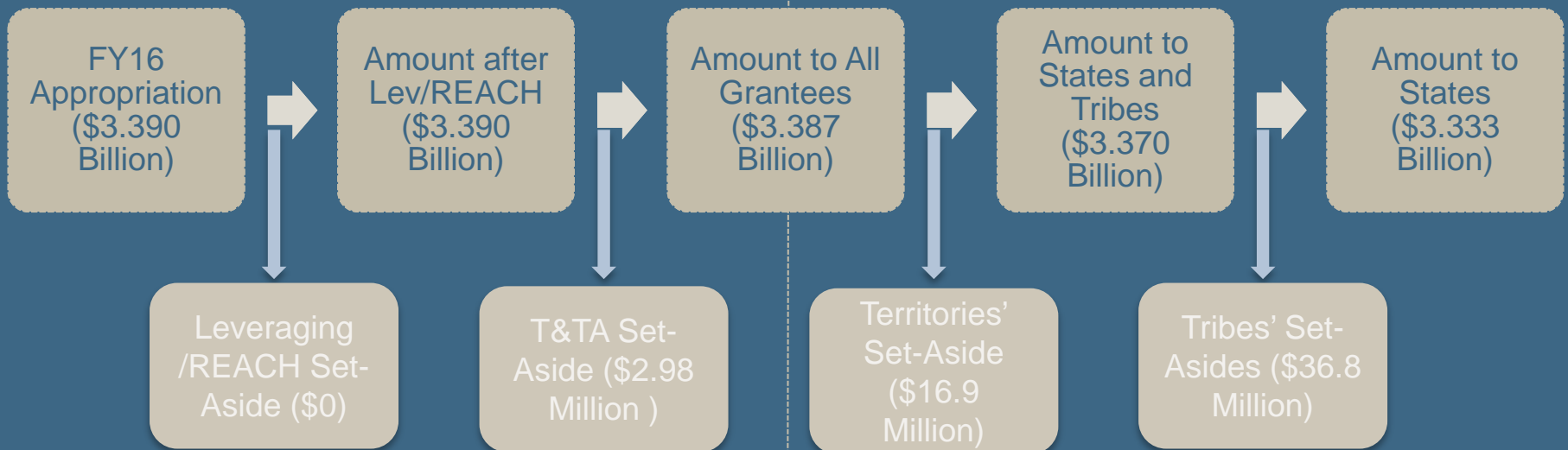
- ACA extends health insurance coverage to people who lack access to an affordable option
- Medicaid coverage is extended to low-income adults in states that have opted to expand eligibility
- Number of uninsured adults declined significantly in 2014, however
 - Over 27 million nonelderly adults still uninsured in 2015
 - Over half (nearly 15 million) were nonelderly uninsured men

Tribe/State Agreements

Peter Edelman

14

- FY 2016 LIHEAP Allocations Flowchart—with Set-Asides



Tribe/State Agreements

Peter Edelman

15

The tribes' allocations are based upon a set method.

In priority order...



- The terms of the State-Tribe agreement
- LIHEAP-eligible households from the Census Bureau
- LIHEAP-eligible households documented by the Tribe and, if necessary, the co-jurisdictional State

Under Option 3, a Tribe justifies its count of LIHEAP-eligible households with detailed documentation that it submits to the State and HHS.

Tribe/State Agreements

Peter Edelman

16

Without a Tribe/State agreement, HHS uses Census' eligible household counts for tribal allocations

With a Tribe/State agreement, HHS uses the terms of the agreement

- Agreements must give Tribes more funds
- Agreements may re-define the responsibilities of the State and Tribe.
- Agreements are entered-into freely—by both parties.
- Agreements are binding and enforceable.

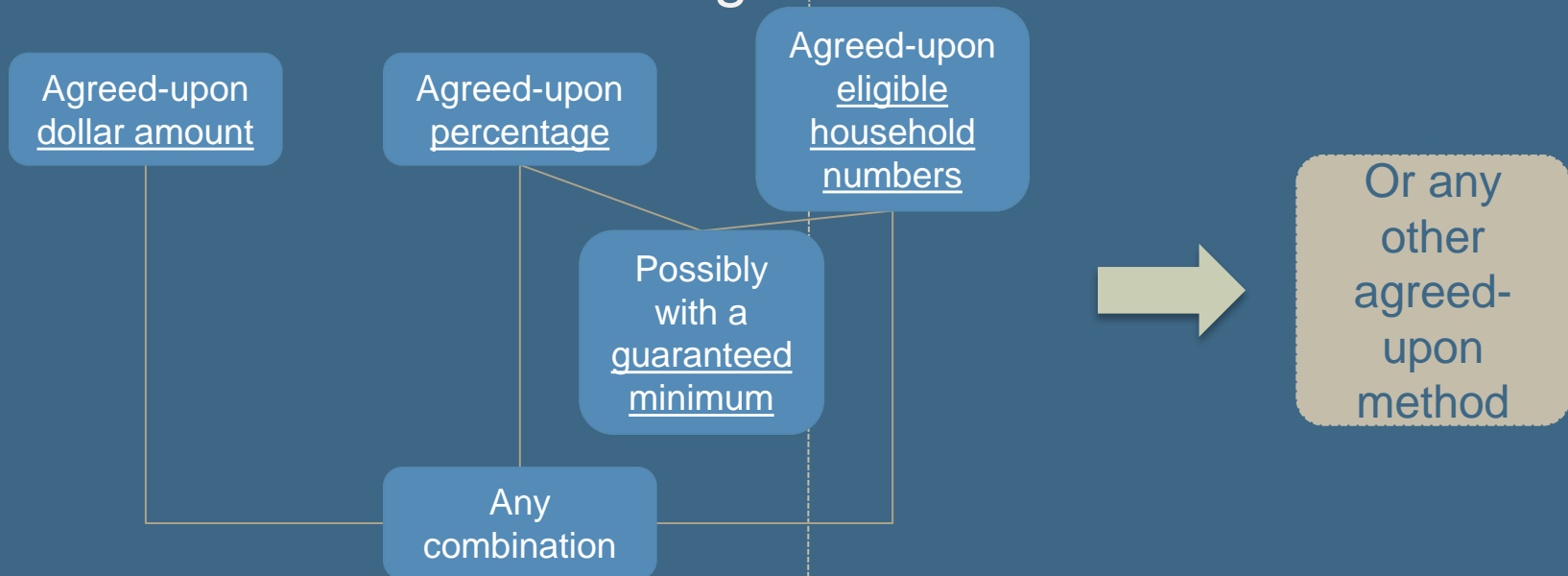
Tribe/State Agreements

Peter Edelman

17

Tribe/State agreements must grant Tribes more LIHEAP funds than they would get under the Census figures.

The amount of such funds may be based on any method to which the State and Tribe agree.



Tribe/State Agreements

Peter Edelman

18

Agreements may re-define the responsibilities of the State and Tribe.

Households that a Tribe is responsible for include the following:

- All American Indian households (not just Tribal-member households) that reside on the Tribe's land; and
- Any other households that the Tribe and State agree to have the Tribe serve—including the following:
 - Tribal-member households that reside *off* the Tribe's land (but not on another Tribe's land);
 - Non-American Indian households that reside *on* the Tribe's land;

Feedback?

19