



Administration for Children and Families
Office of Community Services

Dialogue with Federal Officials

August 4, 2020

J. Janelle George, Deputy Director, Office of Community Services

Lauren Christopher, Director, Division of Energy Assistance

Akm Rahman, Operations Branch Chief, Division of Energy Assistance



Agenda

- Opening Remarks
- LIHEAP Funding
- Continuity of Operations Framework
- LIHEAP Flexibilities
- Reporting – Partnerships at all level



Administration for Children and Families

Office of Community Services

Opening Remarks

Janelle George

Deputy Director

Office of Community Services



LIHEAP Funding – Key Steps

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) = October 1st thru September 30th

1. President = budget **proposal**/request
2. Congress = **appropriation** (sometimes with a Continuing Resolution)
3. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) = **apportionment** to HHS
4. ACF = **Notice of Award** to grantees
5. Grantees choose when to release funding within their service area
6. Grantees **draw down** funding to cover immediate needs



1981 Formula

- Static percentage for each state.
- HHS calculated the percentages once.
 - » The percentages do not change.
- Derived from each state's share of low income home energy expenditures compared to national expenditures, as of the early 1980's.



1984 Statute Changes

Directed LIHEAP funding to be calculated one of two ways depending on the overall funding appropriation amount:

1) Less than \$1.975 Billion:

- All funding is calculated through 1981 formula (static percentages for each state)

or

2) Equals or exceeds \$1.975 Billion:

- All funding is calculated through 1984 formula that sets minimums, maximums, and has dynamic updates
- Requires four sets of calculations to determine each states' share (see next slide)

This remained in effect through Federal Fiscal Year 2007.



Administration for Children and Families

Office of Community Services

1984 Formula

Methodology requires performing four sets of calculations to determine a state's overall funding amount:

- **Floor**—ensuring every state receives at least as much as they would have received in 1984, if the total appropriation equaled \$1.975 Billion.
- **Hold Harmless**—ensuring states that would receive less than 1% of \$2.25 Billion get their percentage from an appropriation of \$2.14 Billion.
- **Percentage**—dynamic percentage that is updated every summer for the coming federal fiscal year.
- **Ceiling**—ensuring that certain states' allocation amounts are capped in order to redistribute funds to states that are at a floor or hold harmless level.



Dynamic Percentages/Data Sources

Dynamic percentages are determined based on data sources from federal agencies:

- Census Bureau
- Department of Energy-Energy Information Administration (EIA)
- Department of Commerce-National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

The following data types are used to determine each state's share of low income home energy expenditures:

- estimated number of income eligible households from the Census Bureau;
- residential energy consumption, consumption patterns, and prices from EIA;
- residential energy consumption survey from EIA; and,
- Heating Degree Days (HDD) and Cooling Degree Days (CDD) data from NOAA.



FY 2020: A Unique Funding Year

- Final appropriation: 12/20/2020
- Congress changed the overall formula for that year to add an additional hold harmless to the overall calculation
- 97% minimum compared to FY 2019
- Ratably reduce states/territories that would exceed 100%



FFY 2020: A Unique Funding Year

- \$900M in supplemental CARES Act funding
- to help with preventing, responding to the coronavirus disease of 2019 (COVID-19)
- Allocated through the regular formula
- Awarded to grantees 5/8/2020
- Grantees can use through 9/30/2021



Administration for Children and Families

Office of Community Services

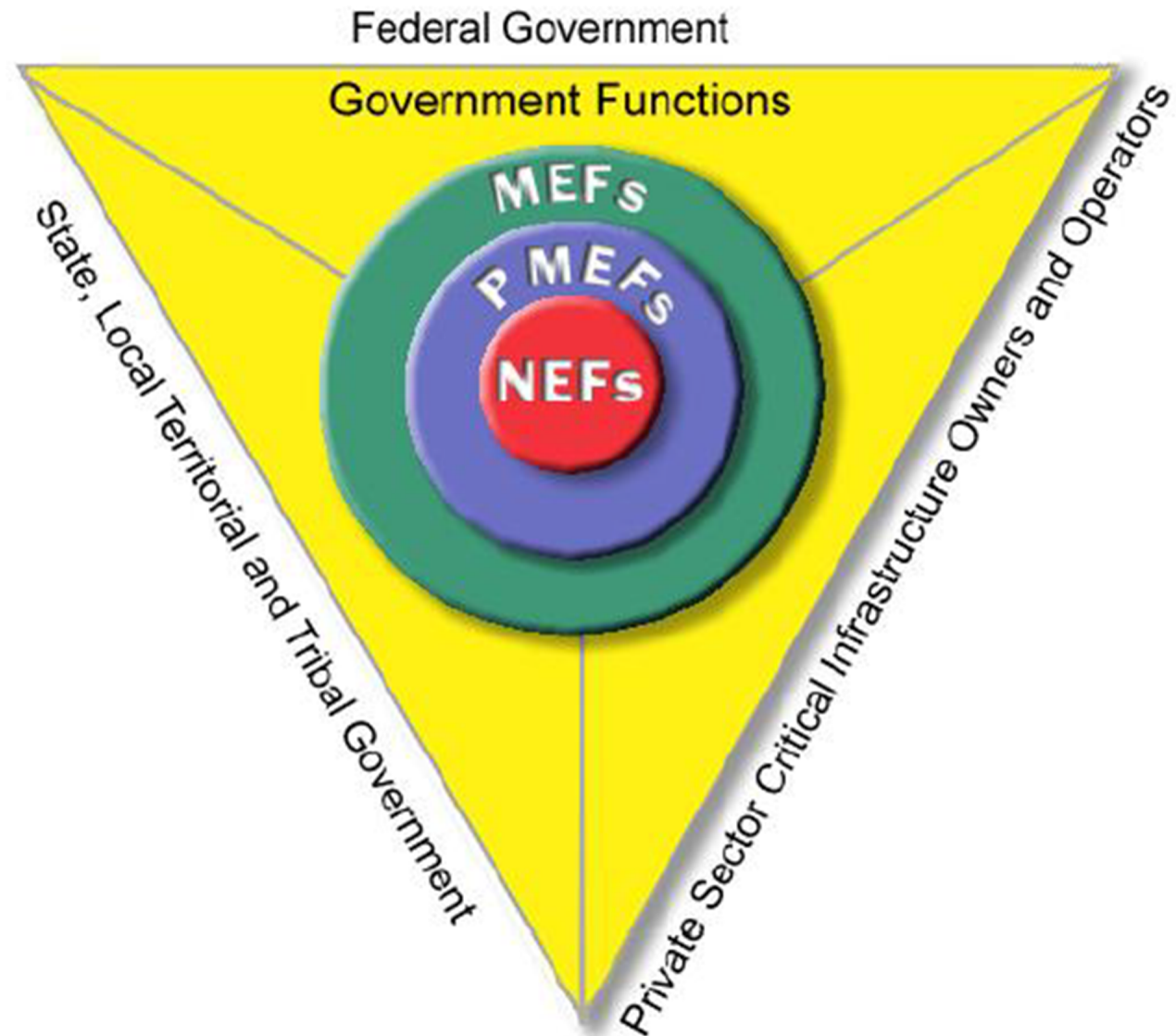
Total FFY 2020 Funding

- Regular FFY 2020 Funding - \$3,737,316,000:
 - \$3.32B: [November 1, 2019](#)
 - \$381M: [February 27, 2020](#)
 - \$37M: [April 3, 2020](#)
- CARES Act Supplemental- \$900M awarded [May 8, 2020](#)
- **Total-to-date: \$4.64B**
 - \$1.4B under 1984 formula
 - \$3.2B under 1981 formula
- Pending: FY 2019 Reallotment - \$2M estimated



Administration for Children and Families

Office of Community Services





Four Phases of COOP

- Phase 1 – Readiness and Preparedness
- Phase 2 – Activation and Relocation
- Phase 3 – Continuity of Operations
- Phase 4 - Reconstitution



Continuity of Operations Framework

ACF

Grantee

Subgrantee

Vendors

Households

Contractors



Administration for Children and Families

Office of Community Services

Federal LIHEAP CARES Act

- CARES Act obligation timeframe
- Income exclusion
- Independent audit reporting extension
- Separate tracking and reporting of CARES Act funds

See:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-dcl-initial-covid-19-program-guidance>



Federal LIHEAP Flexibilities

- Grantee decisions
- Program changes
- Disaster management policies
- FY 2021 LIHEAP Plan options
 - <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-at-2020-04-model-plan-application-for-funding-for-fy-21>



Administration for Children and Families

Office of Community Services

FY 2021 Federal Grant Application

REQUIREMENT	OPTION 1 (New 2021 Plan)	OPTION 2 (Revised 2020 Plan)
Public Hearing and Public Participation on Plan	States and territories: Hearings required--virtual hearings encouraged. Tribes: no hearing, but public comment required.	No hearings, but all grantees must obtain reasonable public participation.
Delegation Letter for Authority to Certify the Plan and LIHEAP Assurances	Required.	Required.
Letter of Intent to Administer LIHEAP in FY 2021	none	Required

OLDC System submission by September 1, 2020



Examples of LIHEAP Grantee Flexibilities

- Virtual and Remote Application Intake
- Application Deadlines
- Signature, Documentation, Verification
- Income Eligibility
- Supplemental Payments
- Crisis Benefit Types and Amounts
- Allocation Among Assistance Categories
- Refocusing Weatherization Work



Vendors

- Utility Moratorium
- Payment or Budget Plan
- Crisis Assistance
- Medically Necessary Protection
- Electronic Pledges and Payments
- Utility-funded Programs
- Outreach to Vulnerable Populations



Households

- Online application
- Telephonic intake
- Mobile app for document submission
- Locked drop boxes for applications
- Physical distancing for in-person visits when necessary
- Timely information about contingencies



Contractors/Subcontractors

- Modify contracts to adjust performance periods, deadlines, scope of work, etc.
- Occupational safety
- Clear expectations/policies on triaging most pressing crises



Reporting

-CARES Act needs to be reported separately for FY 2020 and FY 2021

-Annual reports include:

- LIHEAP Carryover and Reallotment Report: 9/1/20
- LIHEAP Household Report: 9/1/20
- Federal Financial Report: 12/31/20
- LIHEAP Performance Data Form: 1/31/21



Administration for Children and Families

Office of Community Services

LIHEAP Grantee Search Portal

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL liheappm.acf.hhs.gov/data_warehouse/index.php?report=granteesearchportal. The page title is "LIHEAP GRANTEE SEARCH PORTAL". The main content area includes a search bar, a "Report search:" field, and a search button. Below this, there is a section titled "Perform a Search" with instructions: "Click on the checkboxes next to the information that you want to include in the table. You can select more than one to display the information side-by-side. After you are done, click 'Next' to move on to the next screen." The search criteria are organized into six columns, each with a title and a list of checkboxes:

- General Information**
 - Contact Information
 - Grantee Profile
- Targeting**
 - Benefit Matrix
 - Heating Assistance Criteria
 - Benefit Levels
- Program Components**
 - Cooling Program Description
 - Weatherization Program Description
 - Assurance 16 Program Description
 - Nominal Benefits (Heat and Eat)
- Program Administration**
 - Outreach Practices
 - Percentage of Funds Obligated to Weatherization
 - Type of Organization Performing Intake (Heating Assistance)
- Eligibility**
 - Crisis Definition
 - Categorical Eligibility Policies
 - Income Threshold (Heating Assistance)
 - Subsidized Housing Policies
- Performance Measures**
 - Benefit Targeting Index
 - Burden Reduction Targeting Index

At the bottom of the search area, there are two buttons: "Next" and "Clear selections".

https://liheappm.acf.hhs.gov/data_warehouse/index.php?report=granteesearchportal

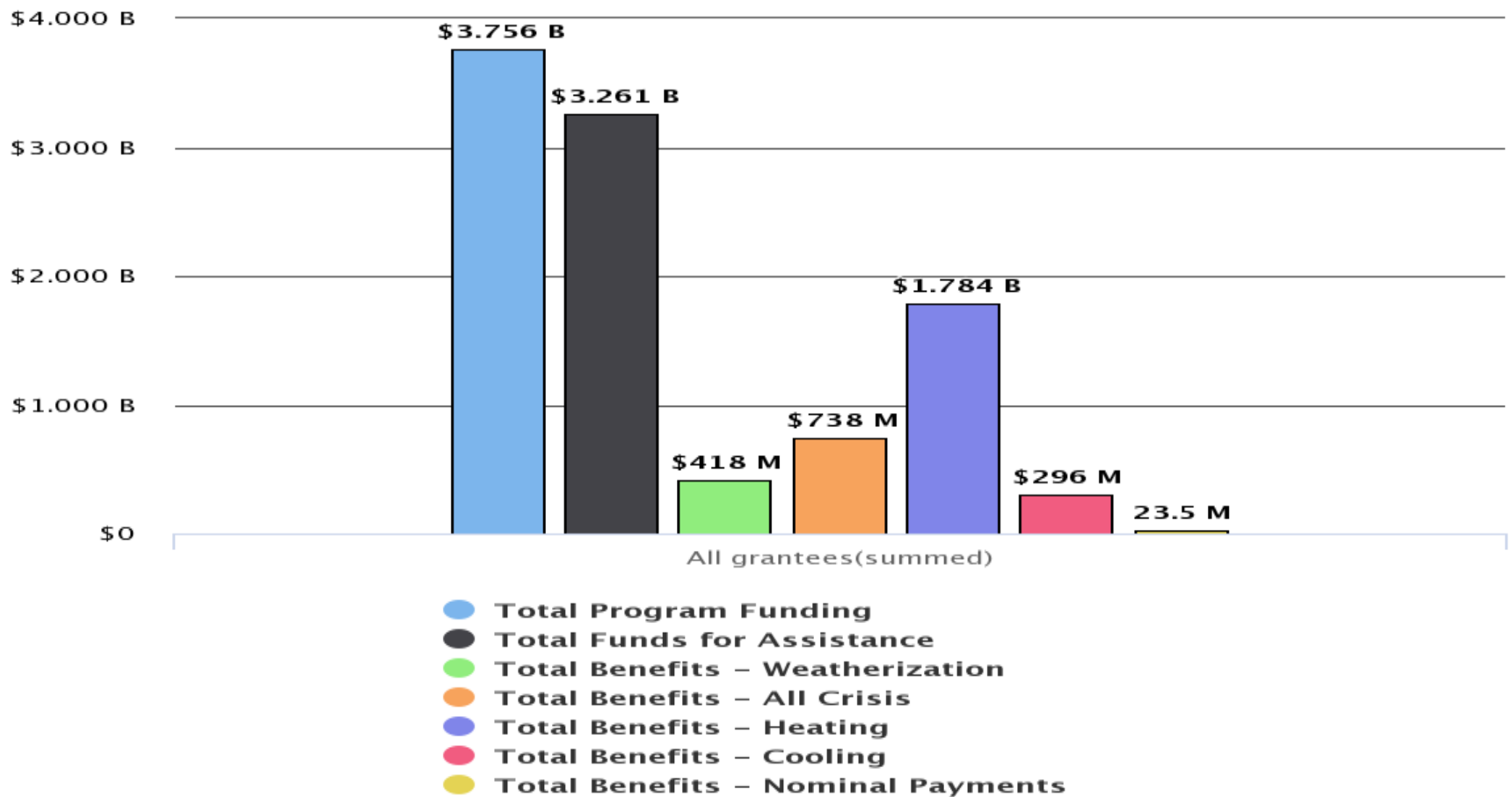


Administration for Children and Families

Office of Community Services

LIHEAP Grantee Funding and Benefit Uses

FFY 2018





Administration for Children and Families

Office of Community Services

LIHEAP Weatherization FFY 2020

Rule Applied to LIHEAP Wx	Number of States	Percentage of Total LIHEAP Weatherization Funding (rounded)
Mostly under DOE WAP rules and partly under LIHEAP rules	34	76%
Mostly under LIHEAP rules and partly under DOE WAP rules	9	20%
Entirely under DOE WAP rules	2	4%
Entirely under LIHEAP rules (as defined by grantee)	0	0%

Source: FFY 2020 LIHEAP Plans submitted by state grantees via HHS' Online Data Collection (OLDC) system. For most recent plan, see:

<https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/stateplans.htm>



Administration for Children and Families

Office of Community Services

LIHEAP Weatherization FFY 2020

Weatherization Funding—Budgeted Percentage of LIHEAP Funding	FFY 2020 Number of States Reporting
0%	6
Between 0.01% and 5%	3
Between 5% and 10%	9
Between 10% and 15%	33
Between 15% and 20%	0
Between 20% and 25%	0
Total	51

Source: FFY 2020 LIHEAP Plans submitted by state grantees via HHS' Online Data Collection (OLDC) system. For most recent plan, see <https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/stateplans.htm>



Administration for Children and Families

Office of Community Services

Resources

Federal law

- <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-statute-and-regulations>

Federal guidance

- <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/policy-and-guidance>
- <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/special-topics-0>

HHS and CDC Information

- <https://taggs.hhs.gov/coronavirus>
- <https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/index.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Performance data

- <https://liheappm.acf.hhs.gov/>

General program analytics and briefing papers

- <https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/>

Mental Health Support

- 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746 to connect with a trained crisis counselor
- <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline>

Financial Counseling

- <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/>



Contacts

- State and Territory LIHEAP Grantees:
 - <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/liheap-state-and-territory-contact-listing>
- Tribal LIHEAP grantees:
 - <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/liheap-tribal-contact-listing>
- Federal LIHEAP staff:
 - <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/division-of-energy-assistance-federal-staff>

Live Q&A

Submit a question to be answered by our speakers **LIVE!** Questions will be read aloud by the moderator. We will attempt to answer as many questions as possible.

