

Office of Community Services Division of Energy Assistance

Developing Tribal LIHEAP Programs

Guidance for New Coordinators

June 12, 2012

NEUAC Session 4F



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Objectives

- General announcements
- Web Resources
- Understanding Key Rules:
 - Administrative Costs
 - Carryover Report
 - Payment Matrix
 - Program Integrity



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General Announcements



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Background

- ACF administers the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at the Federal level
- ACF funds a total of more than 200 LIHEAP grantees which include State, Tribes and Tribal Organizations, and U.S. Territories
 - Of this, approximately 150 LIHEAP grantees are Tribes
- LIHEAP is funded on an annual basis. Congress issues funding to ACF after October 1st. The timing and amount of funding varies each year.
- Funding is made available upon receipt of a complete LIHEAP Plan each year.
 LIHEAP Plans are due to ACF no later than September 1.
- Plans should be submitted by email to: LIHEAPsubmissions@acf.hhs.gov
- Reports for the prior year must be received to receive funding the next year.
 These include the Carryover and Reallotment Report and the Household Report.



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General Reminders

- Tribal Contacts: Notify ACF as soon as possible if your Tribal LIHEAP coordinator changes. We need their full contact information to follow-up about funding and other issues.
- Extensions: Meet due dates when applying for funds and submitting reports. If you think you can't, request an extension in writing to ACF and your State before the deadline.
- One-on-one ACF Assistance: Contact your ACF liaison for technical assistance.
- **ACF Guidance:** Check the LIHEAP website often for new guidance, forms, and announcements (especially AT's, IM's, and Dear Colleague Letters). We also send these by email to the LIHEAP coordinator.
- Resources: Download copies of the LIHEAP Tribal Manual and the LIHEAP statute and regulations from the LIHEAP website.



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Web Resources

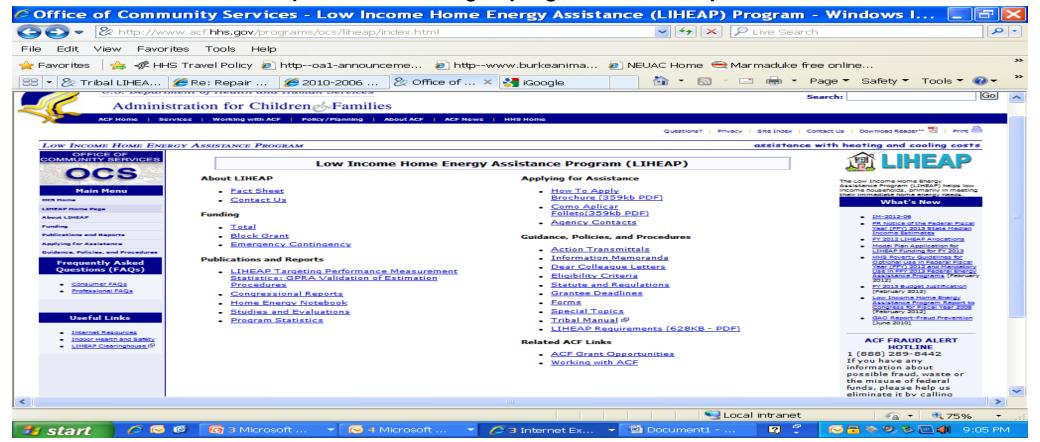


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LIHEAP Web Site

Includes Information Memoranda (IMs), and Action Transmittals (ATs), the statute, regulations, ACF contacts, forms, and program information:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/index.html





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LIHEAP Clearinghouse

LIHEAP Clearinghouse website collects, develops, organizes and disseminates information on low-income home energy issues (including Tribe's LIHEAP Plans): http://liheap.ncat.org/





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Administrative Costs

Definition, Cap Maximum and Percentage Calculations



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Administrative Costs Definition

- All LIHEAP grantees are required to develop their own definition of "administrative costs" and must track these costs throughout the year.
- Your Tribe must also have a definition for what is an "obligation" and an "expenditure". The LIHEAP statute requires that 90% of LIHEAP funds be obligated within the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) in which the LIHEAP award is made by ACF and the remaining 10% be obligated by the following FFY.
- Ideally, these should be written in your Tribe's own policy and procedures manual for LIHEAP.
- You may choose to adopt a definition of administrative costs based on a definition from a similar public assistance program, such as TANF
- See Section I of the ACF LIHEAP Tribal Manual for more information



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Administrative Costs Cap Maximums

- Tribes/Territories with allotments over \$20,000 can use \$4,000, plus 10% of the total LIHEAP funds payable after subtracting the first \$20,000 of LIHEAP funds
- Tribes/Territories with allotments of \$20,000 or less can use 20% of total LIHEAP funds payable
- "Funds payable" includes: regular LIHEAP allocation, supplemental or contingency funds, leveraging incentive award funds and reallotment funds. Funds payable does not include carryover funds from the prior year.
- Leveraging funds must <u>not</u> be obligated or expended for administrative costs.
- If planning and administrative costs exceed the allowable amount, <u>non-</u>
 <u>Federal funds</u> must be used to pay the excess



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Calculating the Administrative Costs Cap Maximum

EXAMPLE

Total LIHEAP allotment of \$100,000

• First \$4,000

\$4,000

 Remaining allotment = \$80,000 \$100,000 - \$20,000



10% of remaining allotment \$80,000 is:

\$8,000

0.10 * \$80,000 = \$8,000

Total administrative cost cap =

\$12,000



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Calculating the Percentage of Funds for Administrative Costs

EXAMPLE

Ask: What percentage of the total LIHEAP allotment is the administrative cost maximum?

Administrative Cost Max Total Allotment

\$12,000

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\$100,000

= 0.12

Administrative Cost Percentage = 12%

0.12 * 100 = 12%



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Administrative Costs Plan Reporting

2605(c)(l)(C)	→ Please estimate what amount of available LIHEAP funds will be used for each component that you will operate: The total of all percentages must add up to 100%.
(use of funds)	
	% heating assistance
	% cooling assistance
	% crisis assistance
2605(k)(1)	% weatherization assistance
	% carryover to the following fiscal year
2605(b)(9)	12% % administrative and planning costs
2605(b)(16)	% services to reduce home energy needs including needs assessment (assurance 16)
	% used to develop and implement leveraging activities (limited to the greater of 0.08% or \$35,000 for States, the greater of 2% or \$100 for territories, tribes and tribal organizations).
	TOTAL



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Administrative Costs Questions

Consult Section I of the LIHEAP Tribal Manual at: http://www.liheap.ncat.org/Tribes/manual.htm

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Carryover and Reallotment Funds

Policy and Reporting



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Carryover Policy

- Policy
 - 90% of funds allotted must be obligated within the same federal fiscal year
 - 10% of funds can be carried over into the next federal fiscal year
- Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) means October 1 September 30
- FFY 2012 is October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012
- LIHEAP Carryover and Reallotment Report due to ACF by August 1st by email to: LIHEAPsubmissions@acf.hhs.gov

Carryover and Reallotment Report for FY 2012 Due August 1, 2012

Grantee	Date
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	st 90% of funds available must be obligated in the year in which they are or a fiscal year may be held for obligation in the succeeding fiscal year.
Current year amount payable (regular block grant funds contingency funds, and oil overcharge funds)	\$
2) 10 percent of amount payable	\$
3) Projected unobligated balance	\$
If line 3 is equal to or less than line 2, report the amount on reallotment.	line 3 as your Carryover amount below. Report \$0 funds for
If line 3 is larger than line 2, then report the amount on line 2 and line 3 as the reallotment amount below.	2 as your Carryover amount below. Report the difference between line
Carryover amount (Funds to be carried over for obligation in the following fisca	\$ Il year.)
Reallotment amount	\$
(Funds that exceed the 10% carryover amount and are to be	e returned the Federal government.)
If you report a Carryover amount above, please provide the	following:
a) briefly state reasons that these funds will not be used in t	he fiscal year for which they were allotted
b) briefly describe the types of assistance to be provided wit	th the amount held available for the following fiscal year:
Signature and Title	Telephone Number



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Carryover Policy

EXAMPLE

- XYZ Tribe was allotted \$150,000 on Nov. 15, 2011
 - Nov. 15, 2011 is in FFY 2012
 - FFY 2012 ends on September 30, 2012
- XYZ Tribe must obligate 90% of its total allotment by the end of FFY 2012:
 - Multiply 0.90 by \$150,000 (total funding) = \$135,000
 - This amount (\$135,000) must be obligated by September 30, 2012
- XYZ Tribe can carry over up to 10% of its allotment for use in FFY 2013
 - Multiply 0.10 by \$150,000 (total funding) = \$ 15,000
 - This amount (\$15,000) must be obligated by September 30, 2013



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Carryover Report

There are four steps to completing the annual LIHEAP Carryover and Reallotment Report. A response on each line of the report is required. The following slides show an example of how to complete the report:

Step 1: Add up all LIHEAP funds received in FFY 2012

EXAMPLE

Regular block grant funds	>	\$100,000
		\$7,000
Leveraging funds		. ,
Emergency/contingency funds		\$5,000
Oil overcharge funds	>	\$0
Reallotment funds	>	+ \$1,200
		\$113,200

Carryover and Reallotment Report for FY <u>2012</u> Due August 1, 2012

Grantee XYZ Tribe	Date <u>July 15, 2012</u>	
Section 2607(b)(2)(B) of the LIHEAP statute requires that at least 90% of fu appropriated. Not more than 10 percent of the amount payable for a fiscal year.		
Current year amount payable (regular block grant funds, contingency funds, and oil overcharge funds)	\$ <u>\$113,200</u>	List amount from Step 1 calculation on line 1 of
2) 10 percent of amount payable	\$	Carryover Report here
3) Projected unobligated balance	\$	
If line 3 is equal to or less than line 2, report the amount on line 3 as you reallotment.	our Carryover amount below. Report \$0) funds for
If line 3 is larger than line 2, then report the amount on line 2 as your 0 2 and line 3 as the reallotment amount below.	Carryover amount below. Report the diff	ference between line
Carryover amount (Funds to be carried over for obligation in the following fiscal year.)	\$	
Reallotment amount	\$	
(Funds that exceed the 10% carryover amount and are to be returned	the Federal government.)	
If you report a Carryover amount above, please provide the following:		
a) briefly state reasons that these funds will not be used in the fiscal year	ear for which they were allotted	
b) briefly describe the types of assistance to be provided with the amo	unt held available for the following fiscal	year:
Signature and Title	Telephone Number	



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Carryover Report

Step 2: Multiple 10% by the total LIHEAP funds received in FFY 2012 from step 1

EXAMPLE $$113,200 \times 0.10 = $11,320$

Carryover and Reallotment Report for FY <u>2012</u> Due August 1, 2012

Grantee _	XYZ Tribe	Date	July 15, 2012	
	7(b)(2)(B) of the LIHEAP statute requires that at least 90% of full Not more than 10 percent of the amount payable for a fiscal y		•	<u>-</u>
•	year amount payable (regular block grant funds, ency funds, and oil overcharge funds)	\$	<u>\$113,200</u>	List amount from Step 2
2) 10 perce	nt of amount payable	\$	_\$11,320_	calculation on line 2 of Carryover
3) Projected	d unobligated balance	\$		Report here
If line 3 is ed reallotment.	qual to or less than line 2, report the amount on line 3 as y	our Carryove	r amount below. Report \$0 f	unds for
	rger than line 2, then report the amount on line 2 as your as the reallotment amount below.	Carryover am	ount below. Report the differ	rence between line
Carryover a	amount e carried over for obligation in the following fiscal year.)	\$		
Reallotmen (Funds that	t amount exceed the 10% carryover amount and are to be returned	\$ I the Federal (government.)	
If you report	a Carryover amount above, please provide the following:			
a) <u>briefly</u> sta	te reasons that these funds will not be used in the fiscal y	ear for which	they were allotted	
b) <u>briefly</u> des	scribe the types of assistance to be provided with the amo	ount held avai	lable for the following fiscal y	rear:

Telephone Number

Signature and Title



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Carryover Report

Step 3: Estimate unobligated balance of FFY 2012 LIHEAP funding that will not be committed for some LIHEAP purpose by September 30, 2012

EXAMPLE Let's say \$12,000

Note:

It is helpful to have a spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel) to track the planned/estimated budget compared to commitments of funds and actual expenditures. It is important to update the budget regularly.

Carryover and Reallotment Report for FY 2012 Due August 1, 2012

Grantee	XYZ Tribe	Date	July 15, 2012	
	7(b)(2)(B) of the LIHEAP statute requires that at least 90% on Not more than 10 percent of the amount payable for a fisc		•	•
•	year amount payable (regular block grant funds, ency funds, and oil overcharge funds)	\$ <u>\$</u>	113,200	
2) 10 percei	nt of amount payable	\$\$	§11,320	List amount from Step 3 calculation on
3) Projected	d unobligated balance	\$ <u>\$</u>	12,000	line 3 of Carryover
If line 3 is eqreallotment.	qual to or less than line 2, report the amount on line 3 a	s your Carryover	amount below. Report S	Report here \$0 funds for
	rger than line 2, then report the amount on line 2 as yo as the reallotment amount below.	ur Carryover amo	unt below. Report the d	lifference between line
Carryover a	mount e carried over for obligation in the following fiscal year.)	\$		
Reallotment (Funds that	t amount exceed the 10% carryover amount and are to be return	\$ ned the Federal go	overnment.)	
	a Carryover amount above, please provide the following		·	
a) <u>briefly</u> sta	te reasons that these funds will not be used in the fisca	al year for which th	ney were allotted	
b) <u>briefly</u> des	scribe the types of assistance to be provided with the a	amount held availa	able for the following fisc	al year:
Signature an	nd Title	Telepho	ne Number	



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Carryover Report

Step 4: Ask yourself, "Which amount is less?", and subtract

EXAMPLE ------ \$12,000 **A:** Projected unobligated funds (step 3) OR **B:** 10% of total funds received (step 2) \$11,320

reallotment = \$680

If **A** is less than B, then your Tribe can <u>carryover</u> the amount for A If **B** is less than A, then the amount B is what your Tribe must report as available for reallotment by ACF In this example, the Tribe has \$680 reallotment and \$0 in carryover (you cannot have both)

Note: Reallotment funds must not be used by grantees after the FFY expires.

Carryover and Reallotment Report for FY 2012 Due August 1, 2012

Due August	1, 2012		
Grantee XYZ Tribe	_ Date	July 15, 2012	
Section 2607(b)(2)(B) of the LIHEAP statute requires that at least 90% of f appropriated. Not more than 10 percent of the amount payable for a fiscal		· ·	•
Current year amount payable (regular block grant funds, contingency funds, and oil overcharge funds)	\$	\$113,200	
2) 10 percent of amount payable	\$	\$11,320	
3) Projected unobligated balance	\$	\$12,000	
If line 3 is equal to or less than line 2, report the amount on line 3 as reallotment.	your Carryov	ver amount below. Report \$0 fo	unds for
If line 3 is larger than line 2, then report the amount on line 2 as your 2 and line 3 as the reallotment amount below.	Carryover a	mount below. Report the differ	rence bet Asepuin e example had a reallotment,
Carryover amount	\$	\$0	enter \$0 on the
(Funds to be carried over for obligation in the following fiscal year.)	Ψ	<u> </u>	carryover line.
Reallotment amount	\$	\$680	List amount from Step 4
(Funds that exceed the 10% carryover amount and are to be returned	d the Federa	l government.)	calculation on the appropriate
If you report a Carryover amount above, please provide the following	:		line here, in this case the reallotment
a) briefly state reasons that these funds will not be used in the fiscal	year for whic	h they were allotted	line.
b) briefly describe the types of assistance to be provided with the am	ount held av	ailable for the following fiscal y	ear: Lastly, sign the
Jane Doe, LIHEAP Coordinator	(12	23) 555-1212	report
Signature and Title	Telep	hone Number	



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Carryover and Reallotment Questions

Consult Section J of the LIHEAP Tribal Manual: http://www.liheap.ncat.org/Tribes/manual.htm

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Creating a Payment Matrix to Determine Benefit Levels



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Why Distinguish Levels of Benefits?

- Section 2605(b)(5) of the LIHEAP Statute (42 U.S.C. § 8624(b)(5)) requires that the highest level of assistance go to:
 - Households which have the lowest incomes.

AND

Households with the highest energy costs or needs.



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Three Required Variables to Determine Benefit Level

- 1. Household Income
- 2. Household Size
- 3. Energy Cost or Need



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Determining Lowest Income

- Vary benefit based on percentage of:
 - Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG)

OR

State Median Income (SMI)

Note: HHS publishes the FPG's each year through an IM on the LIHEAP web site. Grantees must use the most currently available FPG's at the time of submitting their LIHEAP Plans (45 C.F.R. § 96.85).



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2012 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Household Size	Poverty guideline
1	\$11,170
2	15,130
3	19,090
4	23,050
5	27,010
6	30,970
7	34,930
8	38,890



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Sample Calculations HH Size = 4 FPG = \$23,050

% of FPG	Calculation	Maximum Annual Income
Up to 25%	0.25 x \$23,050	\$5,763
26% - 50%	0.50 x \$23,050	\$11,525
51% - 100%	1.00 x \$23,050	\$23,050
101% - 125%	1.25 x \$23,050	\$28,813
126% - 150%	1.50 x \$23,050	\$34,575



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Determining Energy Cost or Need

- Fuel Type
- Individual Bill Amount
- Energy Burden

- Climate or Region
- Dwelling Type
- Household Need (specific to situation)



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Considerations for Varying Benefits Based on Fuel Type

- Determine cost of fuels and rank fuel types, most to least expensive.
- Highest benefit should go to households using most expensive fuel type as primary source of heating.
- For each fuel type, vary benefit based on level of income.



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Sample Benefits Matrix Based on Fuel Type

Household Size:								FO, Kero		Natural		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Poverty Level	Propane	Electric	Gas	Others
\$2,707.50	\$3,642.50	\$4,577.50	\$5,512.50	\$6,447.50	\$7,382.50	\$8,317.50	\$9,252.50	Up to 25%	\$750	\$600	\$550	\$510
\$5,415.00	\$7,285.00		\$11,025.00	\$12,895.00	\$14,765.00	\$16,635.00	\$18,505.00	Over 25% to 50%	\$725	\$570	\$525	\$480
			\$16,537.50				\$27,757.50	Over 50% to 75%	\$700	\$550	\$500	\$450
							\$37,010.00	Over 75% to 100%	\$680	\$520	\$480	\$420
\$13,537.50							\$46,262.50	Over 100% to 125%	\$650	\$500	\$430	\$390
			\$33,075.00			, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	\$55,515.00	Over 125% to 150%	\$630	\$480	\$400	\$360
			\$38,587.50				\$64,767.50	Over 150% to 175%	\$620	\$450	\$370	\$330
			\$44,100.00				\$74,020.00	Over 175% to 200%	\$610	\$425	\$330	\$300



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Considerations for Varying Benefits Based on Energy Burden

Energy Burden =

current energy cost / total monthly income

Decision Point:

include or exclude any low-income rate discounts in total cost of energy bill?



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Sample Benefits Matrix Based on Energy Burden

Energy Burden	HH Size (1-3)	HH Size (4 or more)
24.5% & higher	\$450	\$500
18%- 24.4%	\$350	\$400
10% - 17.9%	\$250	\$300
9.9% or less	\$150	\$200
24.5% & higher	\$450	\$500



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Payment Matrix Questions

Consult Section D of the LIHEAP Tribal Manual: http://www.liheap.ncat.org/Tribes/manual.htm

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Program Integrity



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Program Integrity Activities

- Preventing Waste, Fraud, and Abuse
 - Preventing improper benefits through:
 - Verification of Identity
 - Collecting and verifying Social Security Numbers (SSNs)
 - Requiring proof of identity from all household members
 - Verification of Income
 - Documentation requirements
 - Verification through existing databases



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Program Integrity Activities

- Preventing Waste, Fraud, and Abuse
 - Preventing improper payments to vendors through:
 - Verifying the authenticity of vendors
 - Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)/Employer Identification Number (EIN)
 - State registration/business licensing
 - Systems and accounting practices to prevent duplicate or incorrect payments
 - Preventing fraud by LIHEAP staff through:
 - Training
 - Review of files and payments
 - Separation of duties



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Program Integrity Assessment

- Electronic submission due: September 1 (required for funding)
- Make PIA available for public comment in the same manner as the plan
- Resources:
 - <u>LIHEAP-IM-2012-05</u> Updated form and clarifying instructions for FY 2013
 - <u>LIHEAP-AT-2010-06</u> Introducing new PIA requirement



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Program Integrity Assessment

- For overlapping questions, referring to a previous answer within the PIA is permissible (but do not refer to pages in your plan)
- Be specific and as detailed as possible
- Complete all boxes/areas and address activities done in FY 2012 and planned changes for FY 2013
- Distinguish:
 - documentation versus verification procedures
 - required versus requested information
 - applicant versus all household members requirements

SAMPLE PROGRAM INTEGRITY ASSESSMENT SUPPLEMENT TEMPLATE

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

ABSTRACT: HHS is requiring further detail from Grantees on their FY2013 plans for preventing and detecting fraud, abuse, and improper payments. HHS is also requiring that Grantees highlight and describe all elements of this FY2013 plan which represent improvements or changes to the Grantees' FY2013 plan for preventing and detecting fraud, abuse and improper payment prevention.

Instructions: Please provide full descriptions of the Grantee's plans and strategy for each area, and attach/reference excerpts from relevant policy documents for each question/column. Responses must explicitly explain whether any changes are planned for the new FY.

State, Tribe or Territory (and grant official):	Date/Fiscal Year:			
RECENT AUDIT FINDINGS				
Describe any audit findings of material weaknesses and reportable conditions, questioned costs and other findings cited in FY2013 or the prior three years, in annual audits, Grantee monitoring assessments, Inspector General reviews, or other Government Agency reviews of LIHEAP agency finances.	Please describe whether the cited audit findings or relevant operations have been resolved or corrected. If not, please describe the plan and timeline for doing so in FY2013.	If there is no plan in place, please explain why not.	Necessary outcomes from these systems and strategies	
Answer or say "None" or "N/A"	Answer or say "None" or "N/A"	Answer or say "None" or "N/A"	The timely and thorough resolution of weaknesses or reportable conditions as revealed by the audit.	



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Required Program Integrity Responses

- 13 areas including:
- Audit findings
- Compliance monitoring
- Fraud reporting
- Verifying applicant identities
- Social security number requests
- Cross-checking social security numbers against government systems
- Verifying applicant income
- Privacy protection and confidentiality
- Benefits policy
- Procedures for unregulated energy vendors
- Verifying authenticity of energy vendors
- Training and technical assistance



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Program Integrity Questions

Consult LIHEAP Information Memorandum LIHEAP-IM-2012-05:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/guidance/information_memoranda/im12-05.htm

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Questions and Comments