

# **LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2015**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Administration for Children and Families  
Office of Community Services



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

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## Acronyms

ACF	Administration for Children and Families
ASEC	Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the CPS
AT	Action Transmittal
Btu	British thermal unit
CDD	Cooling Degree Day
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CPS	Census Bureau's Current Population Survey
CR	Continuing Resolution
CY	Calendar Year
DEA	Division of Energy Assistance
DOE	Department of Energy
EIA	Energy Information Administration
FR	Federal Register
FY	Federal Fiscal Year (October 1 - September 30)
GPRA	Government Performance and Results Act
HDD	Heating Degree Day
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services
HHSPG	HHS Poverty Guidelines
IM	Information Memorandum
LIEAP	Low Income Energy Assistance Program
LIHEAP	Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas (typically Propane or Butane)
MIS	Management Information System
MMBtu	Millions of Btus
NA	Not Applicable
NC	Not Calculated
NCAT	National Center for Appropriate Technology
NEADA	National Energy Assistance Directors' Association
NEUAC	National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition
OBRA	Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981
OCS	Office of Community Services
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
P.L.	Public Law
PMIWG	Performance Measures Implementation Work Group
PMW	LIHEAP Performance Management Website
REACH	Residential Energy Assistance Challenge Program
RECS	EIA's Residential Energy Consumption Survey
SMI	State Median Income
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
T&TA	Training and Technical Assistance
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
WAP	DOE's Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program

## **Executive Summary**

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is authorized by title XXVI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (OBRA), Public Law (P.L.) 97-35, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 8621 *et seq.* LIHEAP is a block grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The purpose of LIHEAP is “to assist low-income households, particularly those with the lowest incomes, that pay a high proportion of household income for home energy, primarily in meeting their immediate home energy needs.” The LIHEAP statute defines home energy as “a source of heating or cooling in residential dwellings.”

### ***Program Fiscal Data***

LIHEAP assistance was provided in fiscal year (FY) 2015 through LIHEAP block grants made by HHS to the following grantees:

- 50 states and the District of Columbia (except where otherwise indicated, “state” consists of the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia).
- 149 Indian tribes and tribal organizations (tribes).
- Five U.S. territories (American Samoa, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and U.S. Virgin Islands).

### **Sources of Program Funding**

The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (P.L. 113-235) was signed into law on December 16, 2014. This Act provided funds for LIHEAP in FY 2015.

In total, \$3.39 billion was appropriated to LIHEAP. Of this amount: (1) \$491 million was allocated under the “new formula”; (2) \$2.896 billion was allocated under the “old formula”; and (3) \$2,988,000 was set aside for Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) activities.<sup>1</sup>

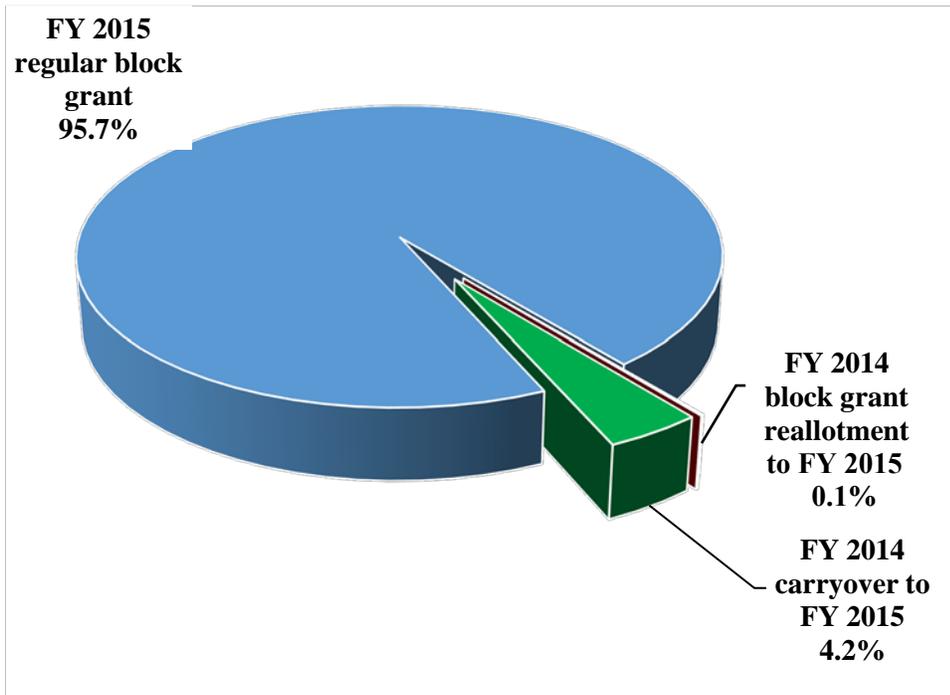
As shown in Figure 1, regular block grant funds provided the largest share of federal LIHEAP funds available to states for FY 2015. FY 2014 carryover funds provided the next largest share, followed by FY 2014 reallocation funds.

The sources of LIHEAP funding in FY 2015 included the following:

- Regular block grant allocations: 51 states received approximately \$3.3 billion.
- Block grant reallocation funds: 51 states received approximately \$4 million.
- Funds carried over from the previous fiscal year: 45 states carried over approximately \$147 million.

<sup>1</sup> The “old formula” allocates LIHEAP funds to the states strictly according to their shares of such funds for FFY 1984. The “new formula” allocates LIHEAP funds to the states according to their shares of their low income households’ home energy expenditures, with adjustments for two hold harmless provisions. A provision of the LIHEAP statute calls for the new formula to take effect when the amount of such funds available to all states exceeds \$1.975 billion. However, P.L. 113-235 overrode this provision.

**Figure 1. Percent of federal LIHEAP funds available to the states, by source, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**



### **Uses of Program Funds**

As authorized by LIHEAP statute, states used available LIHEAP funds in FY 2015 for the following activities:

- Heating assistance: 51 states obligated an estimated \$1.7 billion.
- Cooling assistance: 18 states obligated an estimated \$202 million.<sup>2</sup>
- Energy crisis intervention or crisis assistance: 49 states obligated a separate \$680 million (estimated) for winter crisis, year-round crisis, summer crisis, or other crisis assistance (excluding expedited access to heating assistance through heating assistance funding only).
- Low-cost residential weatherization or other energy-related home repair: 45 states obligated an estimated \$336 million.
- Administrative and planning costs: 51 states obligated an estimated \$298 million.
- Carryover of funds to FY 2016:<sup>3</sup> 46 states carried over an estimated \$166 million of unobligated FY 2015 funds into FY 2016.

<sup>1</sup> The FY 2014 carryover data in this table are current as of August 23, 2016.

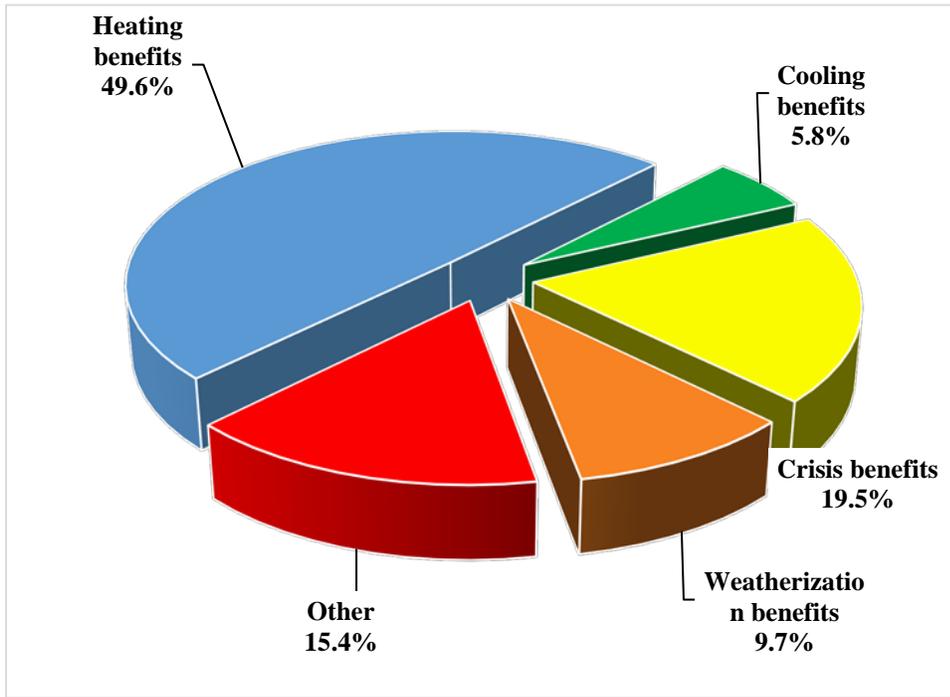
<sup>2</sup> One state (North Dakota) provided non-crisis cooling equipment repair and replacement services to households and reported the households served under cooling assistance, but obligated funding under emergency cooling equipment repair and replacement.

<sup>3</sup> The data in this table are current as of August 23, 2016. Carryover to FY 2016 excludes \$271,910 of unobligated FY 2015 LIHEAP funds in excess of carryover limitations which one state (Tennessee) returned to the federal government.

- Development of leveraging resources<sup>1</sup>: 4 states obligated an estimated \$165,000.
- Assurance 16 activities<sup>2</sup>: 27 states obligated an estimated \$44 million.
- LIHEAP Management Information Systems (MIS)<sup>3</sup>: 3 states obligated an estimated \$2 million.
- Nominal payments: 11 states obligated an estimated \$28 million.

As shown in Figure 2, 84.6 percent of LIHEAP funds were obligated by states for home energy benefits, with the largest portion spent on heating benefits.

**Figure 2. LIHEAP assistance uses, as a percent of total funding, FY 2015<sup>4</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Development of leveraging resources consists of LIHEAP funds used to identify, develop, and demonstrate leveraging incentive programs. Grantees may spend up to 0.08 percent of funds payable or \$35,000, whichever is greater, on these activities each fiscal year.

<sup>2</sup> Funds obligated for Assurance 16 activities were used 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.

<sup>3</sup> LIHEAP MIS funds were obligated by Kansas, Minnesota, and Montana to develop or maintain certain computer systems that support administration of LIHEAP in the respective states.

<sup>4</sup> "Other" in Figure 2 includes administrative funds (8.5 percent of total), funds carried over from FY 2015 to FY 2016 (4.8 percent of total), Assurance 16 activities (1.3 percent of total), nominal payments (0.8 percent of total), development of leveraging resources (less than 0.1 percent of total), and funds used for management information systems (MIS) in Kansas, Minnesota, and Montana (0.1 percent of total).

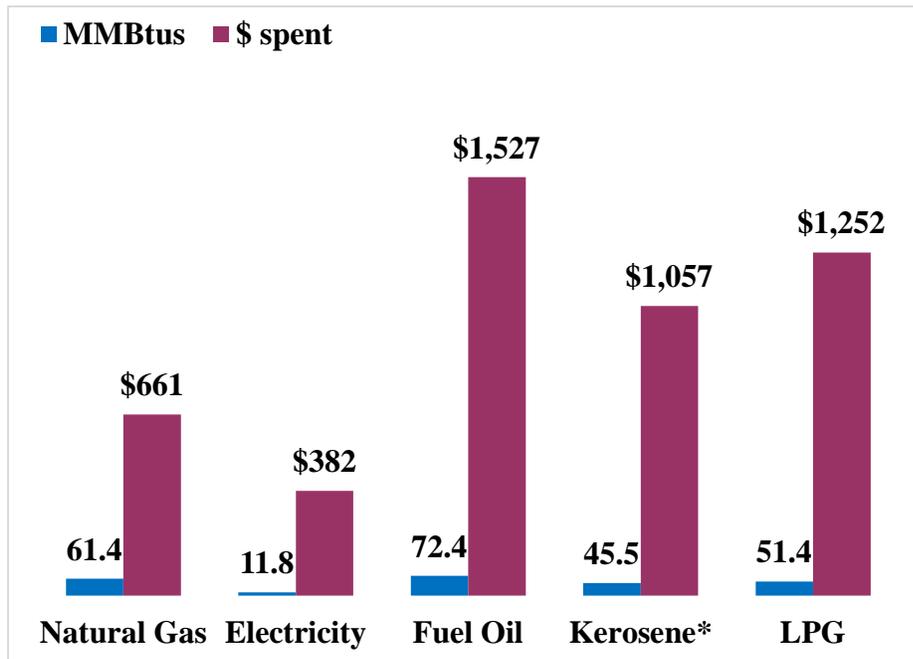
## Home Energy Data<sup>1</sup>

LIHEAP assists households with the portion of residential energy costs attributable to home heating and cooling. Home heating and cooling represented about 37 percent of low income households' residential energy expenditures in FY 2015. Appliances, such as lights and cooking but not refrigeration, accounted for about 40 percent of such households' residential energy expenditures. Water heating represented about 14 percent of such households' residential energy expenditures, and refrigeration represented about 8 percent.<sup>2</sup>

Of LIHEAP recipient households, the rates of primary home heating fuel usage in 2009 were as follows: 49.2 percent used natural gas, 29.3 percent used electricity, 11.3 percent used fuel oil, 1.1 percent used kerosene, 5.0 percent used liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and 2.7 percent used some other form of heating such as wood or coal.

Figure 3 shows the average yearly dollars spent and energy consumed by LIHEAP recipient households for their main heating source. Energy consumed is presented in millions of British thermal units (MMBtus). A British thermal unit (Btu) is the amount of energy necessary to raise the temperature of one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit.

**Figure 3. Average yearly LIHEAP recipient households' heating consumption (in MMBtus) and expenditures, by main heating fuel type, FY 2015**



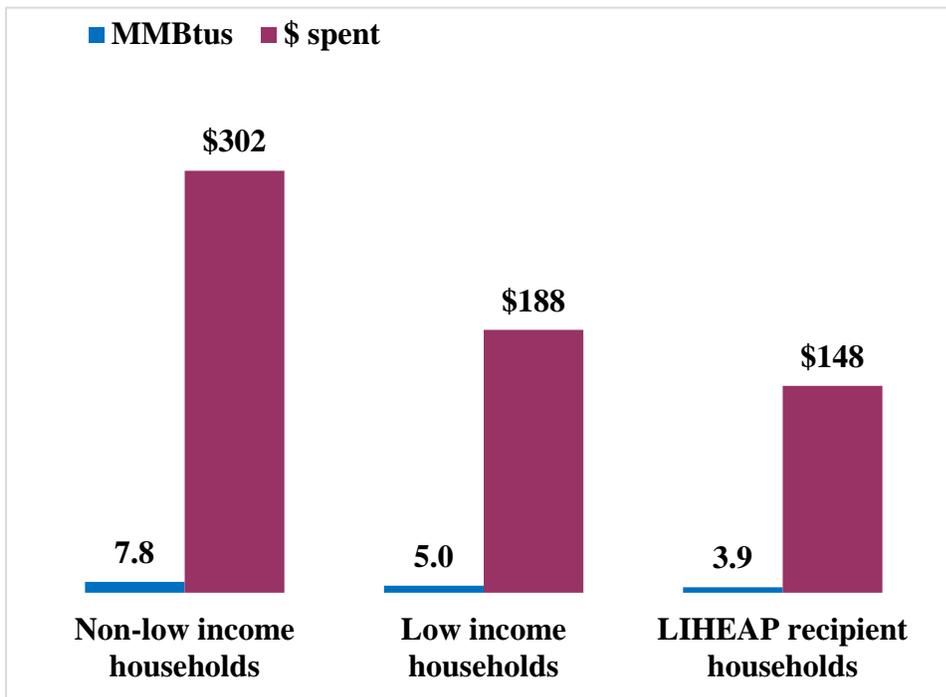
<sup>1</sup> Data on household heating fuel shares, cooling use, energy consumption (including by fuel type and end use), and energy expenditures derives from the 2009 Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS), which was the most current source of such data available at the time of this document's development. Except where stated otherwise, data on household consumption (including by fuel type and end use) and expenditures is adjusted from 2009 to account for changes in weather and fuel prices.

<sup>2</sup> The sums of the percentages across energy usage categories and fuel types that are presented in this section may not equal 100 due to rounding.

\* = Data for LIHEAP recipient households using kerosene main heat should be viewed with caution because of the small number of sample cases.

Based on the unadjusted 2009 Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS)<sup>1</sup> data, 88.6 percent of LIHEAP recipient households cooled their homes, compared with 94.3 percent of non-low income households. As shown in Figure 4, in FY 2015 LIHEAP recipient households consumed, on average, the least amount of energy and spent the least amount of money per year on cooling their homes, compared to other household groups. As referred here, “cooling” includes room or central air conditioning, as well as non-air conditioning devices such as ceiling fans and evaporative coolers.

**Figure 4. Average yearly cooling consumption and expenditures, by household group, FY 2015**



<sup>1</sup> See Part II. Home Energy Data of this report for additional information regarding adjusted and unadjusted RECS data.

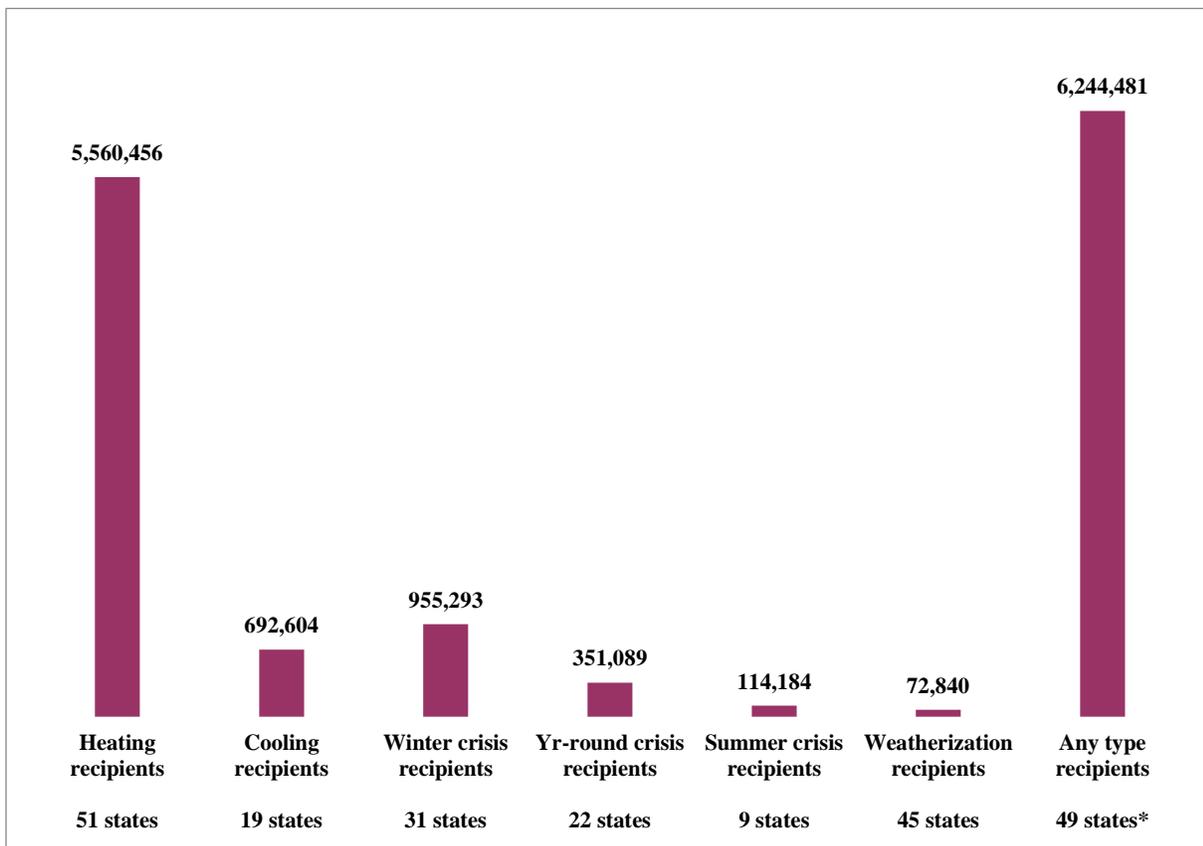
## Household Data

State-specific data on LIHEAP recipient households are derived from each state’s *LIHEAP Household Report for FY 2015*.

### Number of Households

Figure 5 displays the number of households that received each type of LIHEAP assistance and the number of states that provided each type of assistance. Beginning in FY 2011, HHS asked states to report an unduplicated count of households receiving ‘Any type of LIHEAP assistance.’

**Figure 5. Number of LIHEAP recipient households, by type of assistance and number of states, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**



\* = Counts for any type of recipient households are subject to change because of two states that were unable to report such counts due to insufficient capacity. HHS expects such states to be unable to report such counts. The estimated number of income eligible households in FY 2015 include:

<sup>1</sup> The data in this table are current as of August 23, 2016. Winter crisis recipients includes data for households assisted by two states that provide winter crisis fuel assistance solely by expediting heating assistance. Year-round crisis recipients includes data for households assisted by one state that provides year-round crisis fuel assistance solely by expediting heating assistance.

- 38.2 million households had incomes at or under the federal income maximum standard of the greater of 150 percent of HHS Poverty Guidelines (HHSPG) or 60 percent of State Median Income (SMI).
- 31.2 million households had incomes at or under the stricter state income standards that can range from 110 percent of HHSPG to the federal income maximum, as adopted by states.

Previous state estimates indicate that about two-thirds of the national total of households receiving winter crisis assistance or year-round crisis assistance also received regular heating assistance. Accounting for this overlap among households receiving both types of assistance, an estimated 6.0 million households received help with heating costs through heating assistance, winter crisis assistance, or year-round crisis assistance in FY 2015, compared to 6.3 million households in FY 2014.

The 6.0 million households who received help with heating costs through heating assistance, winter crisis assistance, or year-round crisis assistance in FY 2015 represent about 16 percent of all households with incomes under the federal income maximum, and about 19 percent of all households with incomes under the stricter income standards adopted by many states.

The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 allows states to link a nominal LIHEAP benefit to the heating or cooling standard utility allowance (HCSUA) provided to households receiving benefits from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)<sup>1</sup>. A household must receive more than \$20 annually in LIHEAP benefits in order to qualify for the SNAP HCSUA. Eleven states provided nominal LIHEAP benefits totaling an estimated \$27,534,903 to 1,111,387 households in FY 2015. The number of households assisted with SNAP nominal benefits is not included in data about total households assisted.

### **Income Levels of Households**

Overall, households that received heating assistance were among the poorer households of the LIHEAP income eligible population. The median household poverty level of LIHEAP heating assistance recipient households was 84.1 percent of HHSPG. By contrast, the median household poverty level of LIHEAP income eligible households, under the federal income maximum standard was 112.0 percent of the 2014 HHSPG .

### **LIHEAP Benefit Levels**

There was variation in states' FY 2015 average household benefit levels for the various types of LIHEAP fuel assistance. The average household benefit level for cooling assistance was \$292 and the average household benefit level for heating assistance was \$311, which increased to \$371 when heating and winter and/or year-round crisis assistance benefits were combined to account for the overlap in households receiving both heating assistance benefits and fuel crisis benefits for heating purposes.

<sup>1</sup> The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended by Section 4006 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79), is codified in 7 U.S.C. § 2014(5)(e)(6)(C)(iv).

## **LIHEAP Offset of Average Heating Costs**

The percentage of household heating expenditures offset by LIHEAP benefits increased from 45.9 percent in FY 2014 to 53.8 percent in FY 2015. The increase in the offset stemmed from a decrease in home heating expenditures in FY 2015 due to a warmer winter.

## **Presence of Elderly, Disabled, and Young Children**

About 33.6 percent of heating assistance recipient households had at least one member aged 60 years or older. By contrast, 41.5 percent of income eligible households (i.e., those households that have incomes that fall under the federal income maximum) had at least one member aged 60 years or older.

About 38.3 percent of heating assistance recipient households had at least one member with a disability. By contrast, 28.4 percent of income eligible households (i.e., those households that have incomes under the federal income maximum) had at least one member with a disability.

About 18.6 percent of heating assistance recipient households had at least one child aged five years old or younger. By contrast, 17.5 percent of income eligible households (i.e., those that have incomes under the federal income maximum) had at least one member aged five years old or younger.

Of the approximately 5.6 million households that received heating assistance in FY 2015, about 3.8 million households had at least one member who is elderly, disabled, or a young child.

The types of LIHEAP assistance of which each population group had the highest incidence were as follows: weatherization assistance for the elderly households, cooling assistance for disabled households, and year-round crisis assistance for the young child households.

## ***Program Integrity***

HHS took major steps in FY 2015 to work with states to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse and to ensure LIHEAP program integrity: (1) HHS required all grantees to respond to program integrity related questions in their LIHEAP plans, which describes a wide range of state strategies for maintaining the integrity of the program, including preventing and detecting fraud. (2) HHS formed a program integrity working group of grantees to identify areas of vulnerability, disseminate best practices, and offer guidance to enhance program integrity practices. (3) HHS conducted sixteen on-site reviews of LIHEAP at the state and tribal level.

## ***Program Measurement Data***

HHS tracked LIHEAP program performance according to the following objectives:<sup>1</sup>

- LIHEAP's targeting of young child households with heating assistance.
- LIHEAP's targeting of elderly households with heating assistance.

LIHEAP met its FY 2015 performance goal for targeting heating assistance to elderly households, but did not meet its FY 2015 performance goal for targeting heating assistance to households with a young child. The targeting of elderly households increased from an indexed score of 74 in FY 2010 to 84 in FY 2013 before decreasing to an indexed score of 80 in FY 2014. In FY 2015, the targeting index score for elderly households was 81, exceeding the target score of 80 for the fiscal year.

In FY 2010 and FY 2011, the LIHEAP program met its performance goals for targeting young child households, but fell short of the performance goals for targeting young child households in each year from FY 2012 to FY 2015, with the exception of FY 2013 when the performance goal for targeting young child households was met. In FY 2015, the program achieved an indexed score of 108 with a target of 112 based on achievements in FY 2014.

LIHEAP supports Objective B of HHS's Goal 3 in the FY 2015 Annual Performance Report and Performance Plan: Promote economic and social well-being for individuals, families, and communities. However, the indicators used to measure LIHEAP's performance, the young child and elderly reciprocity targeting indexes, serve only as proxies for LIHEAP's outcomes. These proxies were to be replaced by more outcome-focused measures. Through FY 2015, HHS worked collaboratively with state LIHEAP directors on ways to implement outcome-based performance measures.

<sup>1</sup> Further LIHEAP information is available in HHS's FY 2015 Annual Performance Report and Performance Plan at <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/budget/fy2015/online-performance-appendix.pdf>

## Introduction

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is one of seven block grants originally authorized by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (OBRA), Public Law (P.L.) 97-35, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 8621 *et seq.* Implementation of LIHEAP is governed by regulations applicable to these block grant programs, as published at 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 96. LIHEAP is administered by the Division of Energy Assistance (DEA), which is a division of the Office of Community Services (OCS) of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The program's purpose is to assist low income households that spend a high proportion of household income to meet their immediate home energy needs.

## *Purpose of Report*

This is the thirty-third annual report that HHS has issued to Congress on its energy assistance programs. It is submitted in accordance with section 2610 of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, as amended, (the LIHEAP Act), 42 U.S.C. § 8629.

Section 2610 of the LIHEAP Act states the following (“Secretary”, when presented in this section without additional context, refers to the Secretary of Health and Human Services):

- (a) The Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall provide for the collection of data, including--
  - (1) information concerning home energy consumption;
  - (2) the amount, cost and type of fuels used for households eligible for assistance under this title;
  - (3) the type of fuel used by various income groups;
  - (4) the number and income levels of households assisted by this title;
  - (5) the number of households which received such assistance and include one or more individuals who are 60 years or older or disabled or include young children; and
  - (6) any other information which the Secretary determines to be reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this title. Nothing in this subsection may be construed to require the Secretary to collect data which has been collected and made available to the Secretary by any other agency of the Federal Government.
  
- (b) The Secretary shall, no later than June 30 of each fiscal year, submit a report to the Congress containing a detailed compilation of the data under subsection (a) with respect to the prior fiscal year, and a report that describes for the prior fiscal year--
  - (1) the manner in which States carry out the requirements of clauses (2), (5), (8), and (15) of section 2605(b); and

- (2) the impact of each State's program on recipient and eligible households

## ***Data Caveats***

This [Report](#) contains a large amount of data. The following caveats are noted about the data:

- Data from national household surveys are subject to sampling and non-sampling error(s).<sup>1</sup> In addition, some data may not be reported because of large sampling error(s) or small numbers of sampled households.
- Previous state estimates indicate that about two-thirds of the national total of households receiving winter or year-round crisis assistance also received regular heating assistance. Based on this overlap among households receiving both types of assistance, this report provides estimates of the number of households that received help with heating costs. This number is therefore greater than the number of households that received only heating assistance.
- Fiscal data reported by these states are estimates of the sources and uses of LIHEAP obligated funds.<sup>2</sup> As estimates, the data are subject to change. The Department finds these estimates to be reasonably accurate guides to actual performance. Also, comparison of state fiscal estimates should be viewed cautiously as uniform definitions were not imposed on the states.
- LIHEAP household data reported by the states are not limited to households assisted with FY 2015 regular LIHEAP allotments but also include those households which were assisted in FY 2015 with LIHEAP funds from the following sources: FY 2014 regular LIHEAP allotments carried over to FY 2015 and obligated FY 2014 LIHEAP funds expended in FY 2015.
- Additional tables showing state-level analyses of households receiving assistance, program funding, and program requirements are provided in a supplemental documents located at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-reports-to-congress>
- Information on data collection activities are included in Appendix A, located at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-reports-to-congress>
- Throughout the report, table and figure formats have been modified to ensure that the document is compliant with the accessibility standards of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 794d.

<sup>1</sup> Sampling error is the result of chance error that results in estimating data, such as household income, from a sample rather than a complete count. Non-sampling error is the result of error that may occur during the data collection and processing phases of survey data.

<sup>2</sup> The majority of obligated funds are expended during the fiscal year. However, remaining obligated funds can be expended in the following fiscal year.

## **I. Fiscal Data**

Part I provides a national overview of the sources and uses of FY 2015 LIHEAP funds.

### ***Sources of Federal LIHEAP Funds***

LIHEAP appropriations were available to LIHEAP grantees to assist eligible households for FY 2015, as described below. The distribution of such appropriations is displayed in Table I-1. Other sources of federal LIHEAP funds also were available to LIHEAP grantees to assist eligible households for FY 2015, as described below and displayed in Table I-2.

#### **Regular Block Grant Allocations**

The President signed the Consolidated and Further Continuation Appropriations Act, 2015 (P.L. 113-235) on December 16, 2014. This Act appropriated FY 2015 funds for Federal agencies including the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). One provision of P.L. 113-235 appropriated \$3,390,304,000 in LIHEAP regular block grant funds.

P.L. 113-235 also raised the amount available for Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) to \$2,988,000. HHS set all such funds for LIHEAP T&TA purposes. See the section entitled *Training and Technical Assistance Projections for FY 2015* for more background on T&TA activities.

After setting aside funds for T&TA, HHS distributed the remaining \$3,387,316,000 to the following entities:

- 50 states and the District of Columbia (except where otherwise indicated, “states” refers to the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia).
- 149 direct-funded Indian tribes and tribal organizations (tribes).
- Five U.S. territories (American Samoa, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and U.S. Virgin Islands).

There was \$602.48 in unobligated FY 2015 regular block grant funds, all from T&TA. This resulted in an overall total of effectively \$3,390,303,488.12 in obligated funds.

#### **LIHEAP Training and Technical Assistance Funds**

Section 2609A of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8628a, authorizes the Secretary to set aside up to \$300,000 each year for LIHEAP T&TA projects. LIHEAP’s FY 2015 appropriation increased this amount to \$2,988,000. HHS obligated all but \$602.48 of these funds. The remaining \$602.48 in funds will automatically revert back to the Treasury after the five-year expenditure period for such funds expires.

T&TA funds can be used for the following purposes:

- To make grants to state and public agencies and private nonprofit organizations.

- To enter into contracts or jointly financed cooperative arrangements or interagency agreements with states and public agencies (including federal agencies) and private nonprofit organizations, or to enter into contracts with private entities that do not qualify as nonprofit organizations.
- To provide T&TA for LIHEAP-related purposes, including collection and dissemination of information about LIHEAP programs and projects, and matters of regional or national significance that could increase the effectiveness of LIHEAP assistance.
- To conduct on-site compliance review of LIHEAP programs.

Part IV of this report lists the T&TA projects funded for FY 2015.

**Summary of FY 2015 Federal LIHEAP Funds**

Table I-1 shows how the LIHEAP appropriations were distributed among the grantees and type of LIHEAP funding, as described above.

**Table I-1. Distribution of LIHEAP appropriations, FY 2015**

Distribution	Number of grantees	Amount
Total funds	<b>206</b>	<b>\$3,394,628,422</b>
Total allocations and awards	<b>206</b>	<b>3,391,640,422</b>
States (excluding tribes & territories)	51	3,337,873,952
Indian tribes and tribal organizations	150	36,808,268
Territories	5	16,958,202
Regular block grant allocations	<b>206</b>	<b>3,387,316,000</b>
States (excluding tribes & territories)	51	3,333,617,152
Indian tribes and tribal organizations	150	36,762,268
Territories	5	16,936,580
FY 2014 reallocation awards	<b>165</b>	<b>4,324,422</b>
States (excluding tribes & territories)	51	4,256,800
Indian tribes and tribal organizations	109	46,000
Territories	5	21,622
Training and technical assistance (T&TA)	<b>NA</b>	<b>2,988,000</b>

**Other Sources of Federal LIHEAP Funds**

In addition to federal LIHEAP regular block grant allocations, other sources of federal LIHEAP funds were available in FY 2015, as described below. These other funds constituted about four percent of the total LIHEAP funds available to states in FY 2015.

- **FY 2014 reallocation awards.** One state and four tribes indicated in their *FY 2014 LIHEAP Carryover and Reallocation Reports* that they had FY 2014 LIHEAP funds available for reallocation, totaling \$4,324,422.<sup>1</sup> HHS redistributed this amount to LIHEAP grantees for use in FY 2015, per section 2607 of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8626. The funds were awarded on September 30, 2015, to all current LIHEAP grantees by distributing the total reallocated funds under the formula Congress set for FY 2015 funding, except grantees whose allocations would have been less than \$25 did not receive an award. A Dear Colleague Letter announcing the reallocated funds was issued on September 30, 2015 and posted to ACF’s website at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-dear-colleague-notice-on-reallocation-of-fy-2014-funds>.
- **LIHEAP carryover from FY 2014.** Section 2607(b)(2)(B) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8626(b)(2)(B), provides that a LIHEAP grantee may request that up to 10 percent of its “funds payable” (i.e., LIHEAP block grant funds, emergency contingency funds, and oil overcharge funds designated for LIHEAP) be held available for the next fiscal year.

**Table I-2. National estimates of net federal LIHEAP funds available to states, FY 2015<sup>2</sup>**  
 (See Table I-3 for state-specific estimates of federal LIHEAP funds available to states)

Funding source	Number of states	Amount of funds	Percent of funds
Total	51	\$3,484,494,791	100.0%
FY 2015 regular block grant allocations	51	3,333,617,152	95.7
FY 2014 reallocation awards for FY 2015	51	4,256,800	0.1
FY 2014 funds carried over to FY 2015 <sup>3</sup>	45	146,620,839	4.2

<sup>1</sup> The grantees that reported funds available for reallocation included: West Virginia, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Delaware Tribe of Indians, Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos, and Kodiak Area Native Association.

<sup>2</sup> Regular block grant allocations and FY 2014 reallocation awards for FY 2015 are actual dollars distributed by HHS.

<sup>3</sup> Funds carried over to FY 2015 are dollars that states reported as carried over or returned to HHS on Parts 1 of their FY 2014 LIHEAP Performance Data Forms. These data are current as of August 23, 2016.

**Table I-3. State-specific estimates of net federal LIHEAP funds available to states, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

State	FY 2015 regular block grant allocations	FY 2014 reallotment awards for FY 2015	Funds carried over from FY 2014 <sup>2</sup>	Total
Total	\$3,333,617,152	\$4,256,800	\$146,620,839	\$3,484,494,791
Alabama	44,122,193	36,792	3,348,056	47,507,041
Alaska	10,156,455	14,321	762,460	10,933,236
Arizona	20,599,702	17,110	557,518	21,174,330
Arkansas	26,777,251	28,237	1,664,811	28,470,299
California	173,401,312	197,856	790,020	174,389,188
Colorado	48,889,437	69,220	3,275,853	52,234,510
Connecticut	85,764,007	90,300	1,977,926	87,832,233
Delaware	12,547,203	11,986	1,002,320	13,561,509
Dist. of Col.	10,378,501	14,024	1,036,726	11,429,251
Florida	70,599,687	58,546	5,591,103	76,249,336
Georgia	55,828,634	46,296	732,925	56,607,855
Hawaii	5,622,255	4,662	215,594	5,842,511
Idaho	19,012,486	25,689	1,773,096	20,811,271
Illinois	167,395,704	249,935	14,816,915	182,462,554
Indiana	75,785,408	113,153	4,810,786	80,709,347
Iowa	53,714,858	80,200	2,160,621	55,955,679
Kansas	30,671,744	36,778	1,472,087	32,180,609
Kentucky	44,896,434	58,890	3,595,998	48,551,322
Louisiana	38,389,693	37,833	0	38,427,526
Maine	37,748,756	56,363	2,917,254	40,722,373
Maryland	68,853,946	69,142	2,245,064	71,168,152
Massachusetts	146,211,114	180,485	1,045,411	147,437,010
Michigan	160,980,473	236,049	16,504,137	177,720,659
Minnesota	114,498,307	170,955	10,114,790	124,784,052
Mississippi	26,941,307	31,662	0	26,972,969
Missouri	73,771,730	99,834	3,754,063	77,625,627
Montana	19,340,695	26,134	1,342,122	20,708,951
Nebraska	29,334,674	39,638	2,919,450	32,293,762
Nevada	10,136,137	8,405	429,712	10,574,254
New Hampshire	25,749,807	34,190	857,701	26,641,698
New Jersey	126,585,895	167,687	1,065,461	127,819,043
New Mexico	16,920,094	21,271	734,415	17,675,780
New York	381,233,261	547,224	0	381,780,485

<sup>1</sup> Regular block grant allocations and FY 2014 reallotment awards for FY 2015 are actual dollars distributed by HHS.

<sup>2</sup> Funds carried over to FY 2015 are dollars that states reported as carried over or returned to HHS on Parts 1 of their FY 2014 LIHEAP Performance Data Forms. These data are current as of August 23, 2016.

State	FY 2015 regular block grant allocations	FY 2014 reallocation awards for FY 2015	Funds carried over from FY 2014 <sup>2</sup>	Total
North Carolina	84,965,685	80,146	0	85,045,831
North Dakota	19,349,974	26,147	1,959,430	21,335,551
Ohio	148,086,520	221,105	9,962,244	158,269,869
Oklahoma	31,989,632	30,103	952,035	32,971,770
Oregon	35,282,766	52,698	3,529,684	38,865,148
Pennsylvania	206,355,657	294,100	15,955,028	222,604,785
Rhode Island	27,314,612	29,682	710,000	28,054,294
South Carolina	35,441,690	29,390	3,882,481	39,353,561
South Dakota	17,371,908	23,474	1,273,419	18,668,801
Tennessee	55,160,955	59,654	0	55,220,609
Texas	117,472,748	97,415	245,103	117,815,266
Utah	23,473,072	31,718	2,323,557	25,828,347
Vermont	18,965,161	25,626	1,914,000	20,904,787
Virginia	81,432,310	84,222	5,327,391	86,843,923
Washington	56,970,949	85,141	0	57,056,090
West Virginia	28,841,806	38,972	2,920,597	31,801,375
Wisconsin	103,064,918	153,884	1,530,250	104,749,052
Wyoming	9,217,629	12,456	621,225	9,851,310

### ***Distribution of Federal LIHEAP Funds to States, Tribes, and Territories***

Prior to the passage of P.L. 113-235, Congress appropriated preliminary FY 2015 LIHEAP funding through a continuing resolution (CR). This CR allowed HHS to issue a set of awards of regular block grant funds to states, direct-funded tribes, and territories. Such awards occurred as soon as such grantees' LIHEAP applications were reviewed and found to be in accordance with the statutory requirements for completeness. To avoid impinging on Congress' final funding prerogatives such awards were set at 90 percent of such grantees' full-year allocations under the CR. The final LIHEAP appropriation allowed HHS to award the remaining funds according to all grantees' full year allocations.

#### **State Regular Block Grant Allocations**

Section 2605 of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8624, requires each grantee to submit a complete LIHEAP grant application in order to receive LIHEAP funds. This application consists of the chief executive officer's certification to 16 assurances and other required information. Although HHS does not prescribe a format for this application, it provides a model plan format for use by grantees at their option.

The distribution of LIHEAP regular block grant funds to the states is based on formulas that are set into law. From FY 1985 through FY 2008, these formulas were based upon section 2604 (a) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8623(a)—under which the distributions were based on (1) the

formula established in FY 1982 (Old Formula) when the amount distributed equals or falls below \$1.975 billion; or (2) the formula established in FY 1985 (New Formula) when the amount distributed exceeds \$1.975 billion. The Old Formula calls for such funds to be distributed to each state on the basis of the share of such funds that that state received for FY 1984. The New Formula calls for such funds to be distributed to each state on the basis of (1) the percentage which its low-income households' home energy expenditures bears to such expenditures in all States; and (2) additional provisions requiring that:

- 1) No state receives less than the amount it would have received in FY 1984 if the regular block grant appropriation in that year had been \$1.975 billion.
- 2) When the regular block grant appropriation equals or exceeds \$2.25 billion, no state which under an appropriation of \$2.25 billion would otherwise have an allotment percentage (i.e., the percentage of such funds available to all states) of less than one percent has its allotment percentage reduced from the percentage it would receive from a total appropriation of \$2.14 billion.
- 3) If the regular block grant appropriation is too low to meet the conditions of #1 and #2, then all states have such funds ratably reduced.

For FY 2015, however, the formula for the full-year appropriation was based upon P.L. 113-235. Such formula called for \$491,000,000 to be distributed by the New Formula and the remainder to be distributed by the Old Formula. Because P.L. 113-235 did not amend the LIHEAP authorizing statute, it did not specify that this modification apply to fiscal years after FY 2015.

### **Tribal Regular Block Grant Allocations**

The LIHEAP statute and the HHS block grant regulations provide for federally-recognized Indian tribes, state-recognized Indian tribes, and tribal organizations applying on behalf of eligible tribes (direct-funded tribes) to receive LIHEAP funds directly from HHS, rather than receiving LIHEAP assistance from the states. In such cases, section 2604(d)(2) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8623(d)(2), directs that each such tribe's LIHEAP regular block grant allotment bear the same ratio to the allotment of the state in which the tribe is located as the number of eligible tribal households bears to the number of eligible households in the state. A larger allotment amount may be agreed upon by the tribe and state.

Table I-4 shows the direct-funded tribes for each state and the amounts set aside from regular block grant allocations and FY 2014 reallocation funds to be used in FY 2015 by such tribes.

**Table I-4. LIHEAP funding breakdown for direct-funded tribes and tribal organizations, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

Direct-funded tribe	FY 2015 regular block grant allocations	FY 2014 reallotment awards for FY 2015	Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$36,762,268</b>	<b>\$46,000</b>	<b>\$36,808,268</b>
Alabama - Ma-Chis Lower Creek Indian Tribe	7,731	0	7,731
Alabama - Mowa Band of Choctaw Indians	140,705	117	140,822
Alabama - Poarch Band of Creek Indians	90,223	75	90,298
Alabama - United Cherokee Ani-Yun Wiya Nation	36,739	31	36,770
Alaska - Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association	256,981	250	257,231
Alaska - Assn. of Village Council Presidents	2,503,239	3,338	2,506,577
Alaska - Bristol Bay Native Association	1,006,946	1,361	1,008,307
Alaska - Chuathbaluk Traditional Council	26,223	28	26,251
Alaska - Cook Inlet	314,233	392	314,625
Alaska - Kenaitze Indian Tribe	126,672	178	126,850
Alaska - Kodiak Area Native Association	41,956	61	42,017
Alaska - Kuskokwim Native Association	414,316	0	414,316
Alaska - Orutsarmuit Native Council	143,962	331	144,293
Alaska - Seldovia Village	12,263	0	12,263
Alaska - Tanana Chiefs Conference	1,670,359	2,257	1,672,616
Alaska - Tlingit & Haida Central Council	773,128	1,058	774,186
Alaska - Yakutat Tlingit Tribe	34,963	47	35,010
Arizona - Cocopah Tribe	7,977	0	7,977
Arizona - Colorado River Indian Tribes	26,085	0	26,085
Arizona - Gila River Pima-Maricopa Community	80,507	67	80,574
Arizona - Navajo Nation	1,523,875	1,632	1,525,507
Arizona - Pascua Yaqui Tribe	30,754	26	30,780
Arizona - Salt River Pima Maricopa Ind. Cmty.	29,705	25	29,730
Arizona - San Carlos Apache Tribe	48,983	41	49,024
Arizona - White Mountain Apache Tribe	69,976	58	70,034
California - Berry Creek Rancheria	6,120	0	6,120
California - Bishop Paiute	23,067	26	23,093
California - Coyote Valley Pomo Band	5,084	0	5,084
California - Enterprise Rancheria	2,354	0	2,354
California - Hoopa Valley Tribe	42,180	48	42,228
California - Hopland Band	6,402	0	6,402
California - Karuk Tribe	30,599	35	30,634
California - Mooretown Rancheria	17,465	0	17,465
California - N. Cal. Ind. Devel. Council, Inc. (NCIDC)	290,531	330	290,861
California - Pinoleville Rancheria	17,409	0	17,409
California - Pit River Tribe	36,672	42	36,714
California - Quartz Valley	3,672	0	3,672
California - Quechan Tribe	19,403	0	19,403
California - Redding Rancheria	45,287	52	45,339
California - Redwood Valley	2,071	0	2,071
California - Riverside-San Bernardino Indian Health	42,086	48	42,134
California - Round Valley	27,069	31	27,100
California - S. Cal. Tribal Chairmen's Association	4,755	0	4,755

<sup>1</sup> These data are compiled from HHS's records of actual dollars distributed.

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<b>Direct-funded tribe</b>	<b>FY 2015 regular block grant allocations</b>	<b>FY 2014 reallocation awards for FY 2015</b>	<b>Total</b>
California - Sherwood Valley Rancheria	6,873	0	6,873
California - Southern Indian Health Council	5,414	0	5,414
California - Yurok Tribe	54,891	63	54,954
Idaho - Coeur d'Alene Tribe	60,446	82	60,528
Idaho - Nez Perce Tribe	139,875	189	140,064
Idaho - Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (Fort Hall)	769,312	1,040	770,352
Kansas - United Tribes of Kansas & SE Nebraska	63,000	78	63,078
Maine - Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians	170,437	254	170,691
Maine - Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians	170,437	254	170,691
Maine - Passamaquoddy Tribe--Indian Township	325,201	486	325,687
Maine - Passamaquoddy Tribe--Pleasant Point	453,714	677	454,391
Maine - Penobscot Tribe	312,271	466	312,737
Massachusetts - Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe	117,063	145	117,208
Michigan - Grand Traverse Ottawa/Chippewa Band	45,099	66	45,165
Michigan - Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan	85,756	126	85,882
Michigan - Keweenaw Bay Indian Community	119,008	175	119,183
Michigan - Little River Band of Ottawa Indians	21,809	32	21,841
Michigan - Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians	81,380	120	81,500
Michigan - Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribe	500,000	733	500,733
Mississippi - Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians	55,048	65	55,113
Montana - Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes (Fort Peck)	825,571	1,116	826,687
Montana - Blackfeet Tribe	997,347	1,348	998,695
Montana - Chippewa-Cree Tribe	294,847	398	295,245
Montana - Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes	1,171,677	1,583	1,173,260
Montana - Fort Belknap Community	344,840	466	345,306
Montana - Northern Cheyenne Tribe	462,778	625	463,403
New Mexico - Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos	28,097	35	28,132
New Mexico - Jicarilla Apache Tribe	24,742	31	24,773
New Mexico - Pueblo of Jemez	11,742	0	11,742
New Mexico - Pueblo of Laguna	45,710	57	45,767
New Mexico - Pueblo of Nambe	8,387	0	8,387
New Mexico - Pueblo of Zuni	70,451	88	70,539
New York - Seneca Nation	132,615	190	132,805
New York - St. Regis Mohawk Band	74,296	107	74,403
North Carolina - Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina	1,538,416	1,451	1,539,867
North Dakota - Spirit Lake Tribe	1,273,025	1,720	1,274,745
North Dakota - Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	1,767,499	2,388	1,769,887
North Dakota - Three Affiliated Tribes (Fort Berthold)	1,018,420	1,376	1,019,796
North Dakota - Turtle Mountain Chippewa Band	2,291,444	3,096	2,294,540
Oklahoma - Absentee Shawnee Tribe	16,461	0	16,461
Oklahoma - Apache Tribe of Oklahoma	14,182	0	14,182

*LIHEAP Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2015: Part I. Fiscal Data*

<b>Direct-funded tribe</b>	<b>FY 2015 regular block grant allocations</b>	<b>FY 2014 reallocation awards for FY 2015</b>	<b>Total</b>
Oklahoma - Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma	1,613,186	1,510	1,614,696
Oklahoma - Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes	138,864	130	138,994
Oklahoma - Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma	503,118	471	503,589
Oklahoma - Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	725,554	679	726,233
Oklahoma - Citizen Band Potawatomi	132,000	124	132,124
Oklahoma - Comanche Indian Tribe	85,598	80	85,678
Oklahoma - Delaware Nation	4,000	0	4,000
Oklahoma - Delaware Tribe of Indians	27,520	26	27,546
Oklahoma - Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma	4,000	0	4,000
Oklahoma - Fort Sill Apache Tribe	4,000	0	4,000
Oklahoma - Kialegee Tribal Town	4,000	0	4,000
Oklahoma - Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma	43,474	41	43,515
Oklahoma - Kiowa Indian Tribe	51,662	48	51,710
Oklahoma - Miami Tribe	8,442	0	8,442
Oklahoma - Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma	4,000	0	4,000
Oklahoma - Muscogee (Creek) Nation	258,059	242	258,301
Oklahoma - Osage Tribe	125,677	118	125,795
Oklahoma - Otoe-Missouria Tribe	7,766	0	7,766
Oklahoma - Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma	19,838	0	19,838
Oklahoma - Pawnee Tribe	30,812	29	30,841
Oklahoma - Ponca Tribe	57,403	54	57,457
Oklahoma - Quapaw Tribe	23,214	0	23,214
Oklahoma - Sac & Fox Tribe of Oklahoma	115,228	108	115,336
Oklahoma - Seminole Nation of Oklahoma	51,156	48	51,204
Oklahoma - Seneca-Cayuga Tribe	10,045	0	10,045
Oklahoma - Shawnee Tribe	4,000	0	4,000
Oklahoma - Thlopthlocco Tribal Town	17,812	0	17,812
Oklahoma - Tonkawa Tribe	5,487	0	5,487
Oklahoma - United Keetowah	219,481	205	219,686
Oklahoma - Wichita & Affiliated Tribes	14,773	0	14,773
Oklahoma - Wyandotte Nation	8,019	0	8,019
Oregon - Conf. Tribe of Coos-Lower Umpqua	37,000	55	37,055
Oregon - Conf. Tribes of Grand Ronde	118,845	177	119,022
Oregon - Conf. Tribes of Siletz Indians	114,665	171	114,836
Oregon - Conf. Tribes of Warm Springs	114,665	171	114,836
Oregon - Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians	12,000	0	12,000
Oregon - Klamath Tribe	251,520	376	251,896
Rhode Island - Narragansett Indian Tribe	46,742	51	46,793
South Dakota - Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	583,130	788	583,918
South Dakota - Lower Brule Sioux Tribe	78,578	106	78,684
South Dakota - Oglala Sioux Tribe	1,207,617	1,632	1,209,249
South Dakota - Rosebud Sioux Tribe	951,205	1,285	952,490
South Dakota - Yankton Sioux Tribe	246,073	332	246,405
Utah - Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah	97,988	132	98,120
Utah - Ute Tribe (Uintah & Ouray)	128,813	174	128,987
Washington - Colville Confederated Tribes	500,597	747	501,344
Washington - Hoh Tribe	8,460	0	8,460
Washington - Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	14,598	0	14,598

<b>Direct-funded tribe</b>	<b>FY 2015 regular block grant allocations</b>	<b>FY 2014 reallocation awards for FY 2015</b>	<b>Total</b>
Washington - Kalispel Indian Community	14,598	0	14,598
Washington - Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	35,698	53	35,751
Washington - Lummi Indian Tribe	147,697	221	147,918
Washington - Makah Indian Tribe	115,190	172	115,362
Washington - Muckleshoot Indian Tribe	52,719	79	52,798
Washington - Nooksack Indian Tribe	40,544	61	40,605
Washington - Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	24,350	36	24,386
Washington - Quileute Tribe	47,045	70	47,115
Washington - Quinault Tribe	128,193	191	128,384
Washington - Samish Tribe	48,641	73	48,714
Washington - Small Tribes Organization of W. Wash.	77,838	116	77,954
Washington - South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency	164,423	245	164,668
Washington - Spokane Tribe	103,074	154	103,228
Washington - Suquamish Tribe	14,598	0	14,598
Washington - Swinomish Indians	62,471	93	62,564
Washington - Yakama Indian Nation	530,620	792	531,412
Wyoming - Eastern Shoshone of the Wind River	126,765	171	126,936
Wyoming - Northern Arapaho Nation	186,812	252	187,064

### **Territory Regular Block Grant Allocations**

Section 2604(b)(1) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8623(b)(1), mandates that, “after evaluating the extent to which each jurisdiction . . . requires assistance under this paragraph for the fiscal year involved,” HHS “shall apportion not less than one-tenth of 1 percent, and not more than one-half of 1 percent, of the amounts appropriated for each fiscal year to carry out this title on the basis of need among” the following territories: Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The territories are also eligible to receive emergency contingency, leveraging and Residential Energy Assistance Challenge Program (REACH) funds.

From FY 1981 through FY 2013, the territories received the same percentage of the total LIHEAP appropriation, approximately 0.14 percent, and the same relative shares of the funds based on such percentage. These percentages and shares were based on a congressional determination of need for FY 1981. However, in FY 2014, the Secretary of Health and Human Services approved an increase to the total LIHEAP funding set aside for the territories’ program to the statutory maximum of 0.50 percent of the total LIHEAP appropriation. The allocation distribution among the territories remained the same. This set aside was maintained in FY 2015.

Table I-5 indicates the FY 2015 LIHEAP funds received by the five eligible territories.

**Table I-5. LIHEAP funding breakdown for territories, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Territory</b>	<b>FY 2015 regular block grant allocation</b>	<b>FY 2014 reallocation awards for FY 2015</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total	\$16,936,580	\$21,622	\$16,958,202
American Samoa	280,175	358	280,533
Guam	614,273	784	615,057
Northern Mariana Islands	213,354	272	213,626
Puerto Rico	15,247,916	19,466	15,267,382
U.S. Virgin Islands	580,862	742	581,604

### ***Uses of LIHEAP Funds***

HHS obtained estimates of the states' program obligations through the *LIHEAP Performance Data Form - Grantee Survey Section for FY 2015*, as described in Appendix A (available at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-reports-to-congress>). Such estimates are shown at the national level in Table I-6 and at the state level in Table I-7.

<sup>1</sup> These data are compiled from HHS's records of actual dollars distributed.

**Table I-6. National estimates of states' uses of federal LIHEAP funds, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

Uses of LIHEAP funds	Number of states	Estimated obligations	Percent of funds <sup>2</sup>
Total <sup>3</sup>	51	\$3,484,494,793	100.0%
Heating assistance	51	1,728,508,021	49.6
Cooling assistance <sup>4</sup>	18	202,070,276	5.8
Energy crisis assistance <sup>5</sup>	49	680,341,231	19.5
Weatherization assistance <sup>6</sup>	45	336,363,710	9.7
Nominal payments <sup>7</sup>	11	27,534,903	0.8
Carryover to FY 2016 <sup>8</sup>	46	165,625,759	4.8
Development of leveraging resources	4	165,000	0.0 <sup>9</sup>
Assurance 16 activities <sup>10</sup>	27	43,912,344	1.3
Administrative and planning costs	51	297,528,722	8.5
Other <sup>11</sup>	3	2,444,827	0.1

<sup>1</sup> These data are compiled from the *LIHEAP Performance Data Form – Grantee Survey Section for FFY 2015*. These data are current as of August 23, 2016. Sources of these funds are shown in Table I-2.

<sup>2</sup> Percentage distribution of uses of LIHEAP funds may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

<sup>3</sup> The total uses of funds (\$3,484,494,793) differs from the total sources of funds (\$3,484,494,781) by \$2 due to rounding by two states.

<sup>4</sup> The total number of states that obligated funds to cooling assistance (18) differs from the total number of states that served households with cooling assistance (19, see Table III-1) because one state (North Dakota) assisted households with non-crisis cooling equipment repair and replacement services using funding obligated to emergency cooling equipment repair and replacement, but reported such households under cooling assistance.

<sup>5</sup> The number of states and estimated obligations excludes two states (Alaska, Massachusetts) that provided expedited heating assistance benefits to households in winter fuel crisis situations because the funding was obligated under heating assistance. Another state (Maryland) provided expedited heating assistance benefits to households in fuel crisis situations and obligated these funds to heating assistance, but the state provided and obligated funds to other crisis programs.

<sup>6</sup> Forty-five states obligated funds for weatherization assistance. This total includes states that obligated funds during FY 2015 but did not expend the funds to weatherize homes until FY 2016. Therefore, this total is not comparable to the total number of states that provided weatherization assistance, listed in Table III-1.

<sup>7</sup> In FY 2015, OCS specifically instructed grantees to separate SNAP nominal payment obligations and recipient households from their heating assistance data.

<sup>8</sup> Carryover to FY 2016 doesn't include \$271,910 of unobligated FY 2015 LIHEAP funds in excess of carryover limitations which one state (Tennessee) returned to the federal government.

<sup>9</sup> Less than 0.1 percent.

<sup>10</sup> Funds obligated for Assurance 16 activities consisted of LIHEAP funds used 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.

<sup>11</sup> 'Other' refers to LIHEAP Management Information System (MIS) funds obligated by Kansas, Minnesota, and Montana.

**Table I-7. Estimates of states' uses of federal LIHEAP funds, by state, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

State	Heating assistance benefits	Cooling assistance benefits	Energy crisis assistance benefits	Weatherization assistance benefits <sup>2</sup>	Nominal payments <sup>3</sup>	Carryover to FY 2016 <sup>4</sup>	Development of leveraging resources <sup>5</sup>	Assurance 16 activities <sup>6</sup>	Administrative and planning costs	Other <sup>7</sup>	Total <sup>8</sup>
Total	\$1,728,508,021	\$202,070,276	\$680,341,231	\$336,363,710	\$27,534,903	\$165,625,759	\$165,000	\$43,912,344	\$297,528,722	\$2,444,827	\$3,484,494,793
Alabama	18,167,813	12,715,871	8,018,801	940,957	0	2,833,864	0	413,837	4,415,898	0	47,507,041
Alaska <sup>9</sup>	9,434,122	0	0	300,000	0	183,438	0	0	1,015,676	0	10,933,236
Arizona	4,121,373	7,653,978	2,943,838	2,780,959	0	788,955	25,000	1,029,985	1,830,242	0	21,174,330
Arkansas	8,564,378	3,670,448	8,727,033	4,016,588	0	28,237	0	1,114,275	2,349,340	0	28,470,299
California <sup>10</sup>	48,446,261	0	54,536,888	43,077,061	0	2,393,433	0	8,615,412	17,320,133	0	174,389,188
Colorado	36,181,043	0	2,280,490	6,443,441	0	2,433,671	0	0	4,895,865	0	52,234,510
Connecticut	47,493,534	0	20,558,988	0	1,998,119	8,471,338	0	985,380	8,324,874	0	87,832,233
Delaware	7,008,120	3,156,659	1,160,068	0	283,537	626,658	0	258,285	1,068,183	0	13,561,510
Dist. of Col.	6,184,927	396,326	1,838,856	1,134,459	0	879,449	0	6,875	988,359	0	11,429,251
Florida	13,098,981	14,846,214	28,210,210	9,141,663	0	4,650,098	0	0	6,302,170	0	76,249,336
Georgia <sup>11</sup>	37,266,626	0	9,876,693	1,645,998	0	2,104,858	0	0	5,713,680	0	56,607,855

<sup>1</sup> These data are compiled from the *LIHEAP Performance Data Form – Grantee Survey Section for FFY 2015*. Sources of these funds, by state, are shown in Table I-3. These data are current as of August 23, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Includes funds obligated in FY 2015 but not expended to weatherize homes until FY 2016.

<sup>3</sup> In FY 2015, OCS specifically instructed grantees to separate SNAP nominal payment obligations and recipient households from their heating assistance data.

<sup>4</sup> Carryover to FY 2016 doesn't include \$271,910 of unobligated FY 2015 LIHEAP funds in excess of carryover limitations which one state (Tennessee) returned to the federal government.

<sup>5</sup> Development of leveraging resources consists of LIHEAP funds used to identify, develop, and demonstrate leveraging incentive programs. Grantees may spend up to 0.08 percent of funds payable or \$35,000, whichever is greater, to conduct such activities each fiscal year.

<sup>6</sup> Funds obligated for Assurance 16 activities were used 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.

<sup>7</sup> 'Other' refers to LIHEAP Management Information System (MIS) funds obligated by Kansas, Minnesota, and Montana.

<sup>8</sup> The total uses of funds (\$3,484,494,793) differs from the total sources of funds (\$3,484,494,781) by \$2 due to rounding by two states.

<sup>9</sup> Households in winter fuel crisis situations (Alaska, Massachusetts) or year-round fuel crisis situations (Maryland) received expedited heating assistance.

<sup>10</sup> Combined heating and cooling assistance was provided in California and Nevada; and energy assistance was provided in Hawaii, with no differentiation made between heating and cooling assistance. California, Nevada, and Hawaii reported such funding obligated under heating assistance.

<sup>11</sup> Two grantees (Georgia, Kentucky) exceeded the limit allowed for administrative and planning costs (10 percent of funds payable) in FY 2015 using unobligated funds for administrative and planning costs funds carried over from previous fiscal years, when obligations for administrative and planning costs were below the 10 percent limit. Georgia carried over \$18,112 (FY 2013) and \$108,075 (FY 2014) to account for \$126,187, and Kentucky carried over \$160,921 (FY 2014), in extra administrative costs in FY 2015.

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<b>State</b>	<b>Heating assistance benefits</b>	<b>Cooling assistance benefits</b>	<b>Energy crisis assistance benefits</b>	<b>Weatherization assistance benefits<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Nominal payments<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Carryover to FY 2016<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Development of leveraging resources<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Assurance 16 activities<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>Administrative and planning costs</b>	<b>Other<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>Total<sup>8</sup></b>
Hawaii <sup>10</sup>	5,073,983	0	177,529	0	0	96,865	0	0	494,134	0	5,842,511
Idaho	9,592,516	0	2,020,535	4,753,121	0	1,558,227	35,000	950,624	1,901,248	0	20,811,271
Illinois	120,494,320	0	17,720,356	15,040,000	0	6,127,733	0	7,764,869	15,315,276	0	182,462,554
Indiana	34,064,608	17,560,116	4,928,095	8,681,206	0	5,186,712	0	3,458,389	6,830,221	0	80,709,347
Iowa	36,113,424	0	2,186,553	8,069,259	0	4,751,054	0	529,298	4,306,091	0	55,955,679
Kansas	23,360,333	0	1,179,860	4,078,464	0	969,142	0	0	1,963,297	629,513	32,180,609
Kentucky <sup>11</sup>	17,361,197	0	21,463,607	5,070,065	0	0	0	0	4,656,453	0	48,551,322
Louisiana	11,528,257	14,295,039	3,842,753	4,611,303	0	0	0	307,422	3,842,752	0	38,427,526
Maine	23,660,811	0	1,671,145	8,557,962	169,491	2,279,011	0	603,443	3,780,510	0	40,722,373
Maryland <sup>9</sup>	57,098,425	0	1,042,786	177,708	0	6,040,875	0	0	6,808,358	0	71,168,152
Massachusetts <sup>9</sup>	116,526,696	0	0	8,500,000	3,900,000	162,355	70,000	3,638,800	14,639,159	0	147,437,010
Michigan	42,740,303	0	106,899,752	5,722,465	0	6,417,091	0	0	15,941,048	0	177,720,659
Minnesota	71,915,457	0	21,412,257	5,570,906	0	10,189,747	0	4,139,029	10,641,343	915,314	124,784,053
Mississippi	9,704,690	8,965,481	978,980	4,003,302	0	0	0	1,030,505	2,290,011	0	26,972,969
Missouri	35,765,108	0	22,997,843	6,300,000	0	5,889,574	0	0	6,673,102	0	77,625,627
Montana	10,376,045	0	755,958	4,841,706	31,654	1,483,299	0	450,000	1,870,289	900,000	20,708,951
Nebraska	16,564,402	5,147,460	2,588,193	2,401,746	0	2,658,494	0	0	2,933,467	0	32,293,762
Nevada <sup>10</sup>	8,516,673	0	568,042	456,128	0	448,692	0	0	584,719	0	10,574,254
New Hampshire	21,702,017	0	713,514	500,000	0	426,975	0	893,760	2,405,432	0	26,641,698
New Jersey	78,344,560	9,723,720	12,197,421	13,006,213	0	2,616,438	0	0	11,930,691	0	127,819,043
New Mexico	7,477,115	4,144,026	1,114,880	1,938,556	0	1,307,067	0	0	1,694,136	0	17,675,780
New York	236,321,702	2,896,006	70,360,386	38,123,326	6,130,362	0	0	0	27,948,703	0	381,780,485
North Carolina	31,994,505	0	27,877,732	8,172,442	0	8,496,569	0	0	8,504,583	0	85,045,831
North Dakota	9,579,688	0	2,083,145	4,837,494	0	1,937,612	0	960,000	1,937,612	0	21,335,551
Ohio	66,899,341	0	42,732,349	22,246,143	0	11,349,017	0	212,257	14,830,762	0	158,269,869
Oklahoma	7,291,358	15,382,581	2,390,778	2,000,000	0	2,905,079	0	0	3,001,974	0	32,971,770
Oregon	20,660,134	0	3,202,407	4,604,109	2,100,000	3,533,546	35,000	1,406,405	3,323,547	0	38,865,148
Pennsylvania	90,463,818	0	76,363,407	8,059,424	8,158,680	19,542,979	0	0	20,016,477	0	222,604,785
Rhode Island	14,944,605	0	3,784,988	2,420,000	1,331,846	2,322,855	0	750,000	2,500,000	0	28,054,294

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<b>State</b>	<b>Heating assistance benefits</b>	<b>Cooling assistance benefits</b>	<b>Energy crisis assistance benefits</b>	<b>Weatherization assistance benefits<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Nominal payments<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Carryover to FY 2016<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Development of leveraging resources<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Assurance 16 activities<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>Administrative and planning costs</b>	<b>Other<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>Total<sup>8</sup></b>
South Carolina	7,206,369	4,890,036	14,155,368	5,316,252	0	3,544,169	0	1,772,084	2,469,283	0	39,353,561
South Dakota	16,156,100	0	1,412,701	0	0	0	0	0	1,100,000	0	18,668,801
Tennessee	34,986,461	5,950,147	7,929,299	0	0	5,516,096	0	13,444	825,162	0	55,220,609
Texas	13,022,299	58,093,505	17,763,295	17,091,077	0	97,415	0	0	11,747,675	0	117,815,266
Utah	15,357,815	0	2,345,023	3,516,000	0	2,347,291	0	0	2,262,218	0	25,828,347
Vermont	15,467,481	0	1,760,401	0	557,718	1,215,188	0	7,483	1,896,516	0	20,904,787
Virginia	43,459,738	12,582,663	8,270,166	10,993,361	0	6,419,141	0	0	5,118,854	0	86,843,923
Washington	28,227,707	0	8,130,524	10,053,148	2,873,496	76,627	0	2,139,602	5,554,986	0	57,056,090
West Virginia	21,503,630	0	2,711,637	4,000,603	0	1,820,459	0	0	1,765,046	0	31,801,375
Wisconsin	55,474,517	0	21,169,312	12,120,244	0	9,908,820	0	0	6,076,159	0	104,749,052
Wyoming	5,542,635	0	1,286,389	1,048,851	0	589,546	0	460,881	923,008	0	9,851,310

## II. Home Energy Data

Part II of this report presents home energy consumption and expenditure data. The primary data source for this part is the Department of Energy's (DOE's) 2009 Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS), which has energy consumption and expenditures data for calendar year (CY) 2009. For this report, the 2009 home heating consumption, cooling consumption, household end use, and household expenditures, though not household heating fuel shares or cooling use, have been adjusted to reflect FY 2015 weather and fuel prices.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, any residential energy or home energy consumption and expenditure data presented in this report have been adjusted from the 2009 RECS for years after 2009.<sup>2</sup>

The report titled [Low Income Home Energy Data for FY 2015](#) includes an explanation of the sources of data and the data calculations for the home energy estimates presented in Part II.

### *Total Residential Energy Data*

Total residential energy includes a variety of uses, such as refrigeration, cooking, lighting, water heating, home heating, and home cooling. By statute, LIHEAP targets assistance to that portion of total residential energy that covers home heating and home cooling costs. In FY 2015, home heating was 28 percent of the residential energy bill for low income households and home cooling made up 9 percent.

Table II-1 provides data on the percentage of the residential energy bill that is attributable to five main categories of end use. The category for appliances, such as lights and cooking but not refrigeration, accounted for about 39 percent of residential energy expenditures for LIHEAP recipient households in FY 2015. Water heating expenditures represented about 14 percent of residential energy expenditures for LIHEAP recipient households, and refrigeration represented about eight percent. Table II-1 provides data on residential energy expenditures by each major end use by the following four income groups:

- **All households**, represent all households in the U.S.
- **Non-low income households**, represent those households with annual incomes above the LIHEAP income maximum of the greater of 150 percent of HHSPG or 60 percent of SMI.
- **Low income households**, represent those households with annual incomes at or under the LIHEAP income maximum of the greater of 150 percent of HHSPG or 60 percent of SMI.
- **LIHEAP recipient households**, represent those low income households that received federal fuel assistance.

Residential energy expenditures of low income households were distributed in roughly the same way as those of all households. However, LIHEAP recipients spent a higher proportion

<sup>1</sup> The 2009 RECS was the most current source of such data available at the time of this document's development.

<sup>2</sup> The sums of the percentages across energy usage categories and fuel types that are presented in this part may not equal 100 due to rounding.

of their annual residential expenditures for home heating and a lower proportion for home cooling than did other groups. LIHEAP recipient households spent 33 percent of their annual residential expenditures for home heating, about five percentage points more than did the average low income household. LIHEAP recipient households spent six percent for home cooling, about two-thirds of the proportion spent by low income households.

**Table II-1. Percent of household residential energy expenditures by major end use, by household type, nationally, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

End use	All households	Non-low income households	Low income households	LIHEAP recipient households
Home heating	26%	25%	28%	33%
Home cooling	11	12	9	6
Water heating	13	12	14	14
Refrigeration	8	8	8	8
Appliances	42	42	40	39
All uses <sup>2</sup>	100	100	100	100

Average residential energy expenditures for LIHEAP recipient households were \$2,053, about 11 percent higher than that for all low income households. The mean individual residential energy burden for LIHEAP recipient households was 18.4 percent, about 0.3 percentage points higher than that for low income households.

Tables II-2a and II-2b present data on average annual residential energy consumption, expenditures, and burden (the percent of income spent on residential energy), by household income group and heating fuel type for low income households. For information on the methodology and terminology used to develop data on residential energy, and for more detailed statistics by Census region, household income group, and main heating fuel type, see the report, [Low Income Home Energy Data for FY 2015](#).

In FY 2015, average residential energy consumption for all households was 90.8 million British thermal units (MMBtus) and average residential energy expenditures were \$2,146. The mean individual residential energy burden for all households was 8.4 percent of income.

Low income households had average residential energy consumption of 79.1 MMBtus, or about 13 percent less than all households, and average energy expenditures of \$1,842, or about 14 percent less than all households. Their mean individual residential energy burden was 18.1 percent, over twice that for all households and over five times that for non-low income households.

<sup>1</sup> Data are derived from the 2009 RECS, adjusted to reflect FY 2015 heating degree days (HDDs) and cooling degree days (CDDs).

<sup>2</sup> All uses may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

**Table II-2a. Average annual household residential energy data by household type, all fuels, nationally, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

Household type	Fuel consumption (MMBtus) <sup>2</sup>	Fuel expenditures	Mean individual burden <sup>3</sup>	Median individual burden <sup>4</sup>	Mean group burden <sup>5</sup>
All households	90.8	\$2,146	8.4%	3.8%	2.8%
Non-low income households	97.1	2,309	3.2	2.8	2.3
Low income households	79.1	1,842	18.1	8.8	9.8
LIHEAP recipient households	93.2	2,053	18.4	9.2	12.3

**Table II-2b. Average annual household residential energy data by main heating fuel type, low income households, nationally, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

Main heating fuel	Fuel consumption (MMBtus) <sup>2</sup>	Fuel expenditures	Mean individual burden <sup>3</sup>	Median individual burden <sup>4</sup>	Mean group burden <sup>5</sup>
All fuels	79.1	\$1,842	18.1%	8.8%	9.8%
Natural gas	101.4	1,829	17.2	8.4	9.7
Electricity	52.1	1,639	18.5	8.4	8.7
Fuel oil	107.3	2,923	23.3	12.9	15.6
Kerosene	65.0	1,971	18.5	11.0	10.5
LPG <sup>6</sup>	96.6	2,785	22.2	13.3	14.8

## *Home Heating Data*

This section presents data on main heating fuel type, home heating consumption, home heating expenditures, and home heating burden.

<sup>1</sup> Data are derived from the 2009 RECS, adjusted to reflect FY 2015 heating degree days (HDDs), cooling degree days (CDDs), and fuel prices. Data represent residential energy used from October 2014 through September 2015.

<sup>2</sup> A British thermal unit (Btu) is the amount of energy necessary to raise the temperature of one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit. MMBtus refer to values in millions of Btus.

<sup>3</sup> Mean individual burden is calculated by taking the mean, or average, of individual energy burdens, as calculated from FY 2015 adjusted RECS data. More information on the calculation of energy burden is available in the report, [Low Income Home Energy Data for FY 2015](#).

<sup>4</sup> Median individual burden is calculated by taking the median of individual energy burdens, as calculated from FY 2015 adjusted RECS data.

<sup>5</sup> Mean group energy burden has been calculated by (1) calculating average residential energy expenditures from the 2009 RECS for each group of households, (2) adjusting those figures for FY 2015, and (3) dividing the adjusted figures by the average income for each group of households from the 2015 CPS ASEC.

<sup>6</sup> Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) refers to any fuel gas supplied to a residence in liquid compressed form, such as propane or butane.

## **Main Heating Fuel Type**

The unadjusted 2009 RECS data in Table II-3 show that about half of the households in each income group used natural gas as their main heating fuel. Non-low income households used natural gas at the highest rate among all household groups, 51.4 percent, followed by LIHEAP recipient households, 49.2 percent. Low income households used electricity as their primary fuel type at the highest rate among all households groups, 36.7 percent, while LIHEAP recipient households used electricity at the lowest rate, 29.3 percent. LIHEAP recipient households tended to use fuel oil and kerosene more frequently than did households in other groups.

**Table II-3. Percent of households using major types of heating fuels, by household type, nationally, 2009<sup>1</sup>**

Household type	Natural gas	Electricity	Fuel oil	Kerosene	LPG	Other <sup>2</sup>
All households	49.0%	33.6%	6.1%	0.4%	4.9%	2.9%
Non-low income households	51.4	31.9	6.1	0.2	5.1	2.9
Low income households <sup>3</sup>	44.4	36.7	6.1	0.9	4.6	3.0
LIHEAP recipient households <sup>4</sup>	49.2	29.3	11.3	1.1	5.0	2.7

Other findings from the 2009 RECS show that non-low income households increased their use of electricity for home heating from 24.1 percent of households in September 1990 to 29.2 percent in 2005 to 31.9 percent in 2009. Low income households increased their use of electricity as the main heat source from 20 percent in September 1990 to 31.8 percent in 2005 to 36.7 percent in 2009. LIHEAP recipient households' use of electricity as their main heat source rose from 14.4 percent in September 1990 to 19.0 percent in 2005 to 29.3 percent in 2009.

## **Home Heating Consumption, Expenditures, and Burden**

Tables II-4a and II-4b present data on average annual home heating consumption, home heating expenditures, and home heating burden (the percent of income spent on home heating), by household income group and heating fuel type for low income households. For information on the methodology and terminology used to develop data on home heating, and for more detailed statistics by Census region, household income group, and main heating fuel type, see the report, [Low Income Home Energy Data for FY 2015](#).

In FY 2015, average home heating consumption for all households was 37.7 MMBtus, average expenditures were \$566, and mean individual home heating burden was 2.9 percent.

<sup>1</sup> Data are derived from the 2009 RECS. These data represent main heating fuel used in 2009. The sum of the percentages across fuel types may not equal 100 percent due to rounding and exclusion of households that indicated in the 2009 RECS that no heating fuel was used.

<sup>2</sup> This category includes households using wood, coal, and other minor fuels as a main heating source and households reporting no main fuel.

<sup>3</sup> Low income households are households with annual incomes under the maximum specified in section 2605(b)(2)(B) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8624(b)(2)(B).

<sup>4</sup> LIHEAP recipient households consist of households that are verified LIHEAP recipients from the 2009 RECS.

Low income households had average home heating consumption of 33.9 MMBtus (about 10 percent less than the average for all households) and average home heating expenditures of \$525 (about seven percent less than the average for all households). The mean individual home heating burden for low income households was 6.6 percent, over twice as much as the average home heating burden for all households and more than seven times the average home heating burden for non-low income households.

Average home heating consumption for LIHEAP recipient households was 45.2 MMBtus (about 20 percent higher than the average for all households), and average home heating expenditures were \$690 (about 22 percent higher than the average for all households). Mean individual home heating burden for LIHEAP recipient households was 7.7 percent, 1.1 percentage points higher than the average for low income households and over twice the average for all households. Average home heating consumption for LIHEAP recipient households was about 33 percent greater than that for all low income households, because LIHEAP heating assistance recipient households tend to live in colder regions.

**Table II-4a. Average annual household home heating data by household type, all fuels, nationally, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

Household type	Fuel consumption (MMBtus) <sup>2</sup>	Fuel expenditures	Mean individual burden <sup>3</sup>	Median individual burden <sup>4</sup>	Mean group burden <sup>5</sup>
All households	37.7	\$566	2.9%	0.9%	0.7%
Non-low income households	39.7	589	0.9	0.6	0.6
Low income households	33.9	525	6.6	2.2	2.8
LIHEAP recipient households	45.2	690	7.7	3.0	4.1

<sup>1</sup> Data are derived from the 2009 RECS, adjusted to reflect FY 2015 heating degree days (HDDs) and fuel prices. Data represent home heating energy used from October 2014 through September 2015.

<sup>2</sup> A British thermal unit (Btu) is the amount of energy necessary to raise the temperature of one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit. MMBtus refer to values in millions of Btus.

<sup>3</sup> Mean individual burden is calculated by taking the mean, or average, of individual energy burdens, as calculated from FY 2015 adjusted RECS data. More information on the calculation of energy burden is available in the report, [Low Income Home Energy Data for FY 2015](#).

<sup>4</sup> Median individual burden is calculated by taking the median of individual energy burdens, as calculated from FY 2015 adjusted RECS data.

<sup>5</sup> Mean group energy burden has been calculated by (1) calculating average home heating energy expenditures from the 2009 RECS for each group of households, (2) adjusting those figures for FY 2015, and (3) dividing the adjusted figures by the average income for each group of households from the 2015 CPS ASEC.

**Table II-4b. Average annual household home heating data by main heating fuel type, low income households, nationally, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

Main heating fuel	Fuel consumption (MMBtus) <sup>2</sup>	Fuel expenditures	Mean individual burden <sup>3</sup>	Median individual burden <sup>4</sup>	Mean group burden <sup>5</sup>
All fuels	33.9	\$525	6.6%	2.2%	2.8%
Natural gas	52.3	561	6.9	2.5	3.0
Electricity	10.3	337	5.4	1.7	1.8
Fuel oil	67.9	1,416	14.4	6.7	7.5
Kerosene	36.0	839	9.0	5.3	4.5
LPG <sup>2</sup>	48.2	1,155	11.8	5.2	6.2

## *Home Cooling Data*

This section presents data on home cooling type, home cooling consumption, home cooling expenditures, and home cooling burden. In general, the home cooling data are less reliable than the home heating data for LIHEAP recipient households because there are fewer LIHEAP cooling recipient households in the RECS sample.

### Cooling Type

As shown in Table II-5, about 92.5 percent of households in 2009 cooled their homes. Low income households were less likely to cool their homes than were non-low income households.

**Table II-5. Percent of households with home cooling, 2009<sup>3</sup>**

Presence of cooling	All households	Non-low income households	Low income households <sup>4</sup>	LIHEAP recipient households <sup>5</sup>
Cooling <sup>6</sup>	92.5%	94.3%	89.1%	88.6%
None <sup>7</sup>	7.5	5.7	10.9	11.4

<sup>1</sup> Data are derived from the 2009 RECS, adjusted to reflect FY 2015 heating degree days (HDDs) and fuel prices. Data represent home heating energy used from October 2014 through September 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) refers to any fuel gas supplied to a residence in liquid compressed form, such as propane or butane.

<sup>3</sup> Data are derived from the 2009 RECS.

<sup>4</sup> Households with annual incomes under the maximum in section 2605(b)(2)(B) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8624(b)(2)(B).

<sup>5</sup> Includes verified LIHEAP recipient households from the 2009 RECS.

<sup>6</sup> Represents households that cool with central or room air conditioning as well as non-air conditioning cooling devices (e.g., ceiling fans and evaporative coolers).

<sup>7</sup> Represents households that do not cool or cool in ways other than those defined by the 2009 RECS (e.g., table and window fans).

## **Home Cooling Consumption, Expenditures, and Burden**

Table II-6 presents data on average annual home cooling consumption, home cooling expenditures, and home cooling burden (the percent of income spent on home cooling), for households that cool, by household income group. For information on the methodology and terminology used to develop data on home cooling, and for more detailed statistics by Census region, household income group, and main heating fuel type, see the report, [Low Income Home Energy Data for FY 2015](#).

In FY 2015, average home cooling consumption for all households that cooled their homes was 6.8 MMBtus, average expenditures were \$264, and mean individual home cooling burden was 1.1 percent.

Low income households that cooled had average home cooling energy consumption of 5.0 MMBtus (about 26 percent less than the average for all households) and average home cooling expenditures of \$188 (about 29 percent less than the average for all households). The mean individual home cooling burden for low income households was 2.4 percent, more than twice the average home cooling burden of all households and about six times that of non-low income households.

Average home cooling consumption for LIHEAP recipient households that cooled was 3.9 MMBtus (about 43 percent less than the average for all households), and average home cooling expenditures were \$148 (about 44 percent less than the average for all households). The mean individual home cooling burden for LIHEAP recipient households was 1.6 percent, about 45 percent higher than that for all households. On average, LIHEAP recipient households consumed about 22 percent fewer Btus for cooling than did all low income households.

**Table II-6. Percent of households that cool and average annual household home cooling data by household type, nationally, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Household type</b>	<b>Percent that cool<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Consumption (MMBtus)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Mean group burden<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Mean individual burden<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Median individual burden<sup>4</sup></b>
All households	92.5%	6.8	\$264	1.1%	0.3%	0.3%
Non-low income households	94.3	7.8	302	0.4	0.2	0.3
Low income households <sup>5</sup>	89.1	5.0	188	2.4	0.6	1.0
LIHEAP recipient households <sup>6</sup>	88.6	3.9	148	1.6	0.4	0.9

<sup>1</sup> Data are derived from the 2009 RECS, adjusted to reflect FY 2015 cooling degree days (CDDs) and electricity prices. Data represent home cooling energy used from October 2014 through September 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Cooling includes central and room air conditioning, as well as non-air conditioning cooling devices (e.g., ceiling fans, evaporative coolers). Excludes households that do not cool or cool in ways other than those recorded by the 2009 RECS (e.g., table and window fans).

<sup>3</sup> A British thermal unit (Btu) is the amount of energy necessary to raise the temperature of one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit. MMBtus refer to values in millions of Btus.

<sup>4</sup> Represents the percent of household income used for home cooling energy expenditures. More information on the calculation of energy burden is available in the report, [Low Income Home Energy Data for FY 2015](#).

<sup>5</sup> Households with annual incomes under the maximum in section 2605(b)(2)(B) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8624(b)(2)(B).

<sup>6</sup> Includes verified LIHEAP recipient households from the 2009 RECS.

### **III. Household Data**

Part III provides household data required under section 2610(a) of the LIHEAP statute Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8629(a). National data about LIHEAP income eligible and assisted households are included in this section of the report. National data about LIHEAP income eligible households are derived from the 2015 Current Population Survey (CPS) Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) and the 2009 RECS. National and state-level data about assisted households also are included in this report. State-level data on LIHEAP assisted households are derived from each state's *LIHEAP Household Report for FY 2015* that was submitted to HHS as part of each grantee's application for FY 2015 LIHEAP funds. The above data sources are described in Appendix A (available at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-reports-to-congress>).

The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 allows states to link a nominal LIHEAP benefit to the heating or cooling standard utility allowance (HCSUA) provided to households receiving benefits from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).<sup>1</sup> A household must receive more than \$20 annually in LIHEAP benefits in order to qualify for the SNAP HCSUA. HHS identified 11 states that provided nominal LIHEAP benefits totaling an estimated \$27,534,903 to 1,111,387 households in FY 2015. Two additional grantees used non-LIHEAP funds to support this initiative. More information on which states provided nominal LIHEAP benefits, and the number of households assisted is available in Supplemental Table III-2 (<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-reports-to-congress>).

As in the previous federal fiscal year, states were required to provide an unduplicated count of households that received 'Any type of LIHEAP assistance,' regardless of the type of LIHEAP assistance provided to households (including LIHEAP weatherization assistance). However, this unduplicated count of households that received 'Any type of LIHEAP assistance' was not broken down by percentage of HHSPG, as it was not requested from the states.

Separate unduplicated counts of the number of assisted households with any vulnerable members (i.e., elderly, disabled, or young child members), regardless of the type of LIHEAP assistance provided to households, and an unduplicated count of the number of assisted households having at least one vulnerable member, regardless of the type of LIHEAP assistance provided to households, were also required. Finally, an unduplicated count of the number of assisted households by vulnerable group for each type of LIHEAP assistance provided in FY 2015 was also required.

Forty-nine states were able to provide an unduplicated count of assisted households that received 'Any type of LIHEAP assistance' in FY 2015, while two states were unable to provide such an unduplicated count of assisted households. One additional state was unable to provide a breakdown of its unduplicated count of households that received 'Any type of LIHEAP assistance' that had any elderly, disabled, or young child members. HHS expects these states to be unable to report such counts. However, HHS is continuing to provide targeted training and

<sup>1</sup> The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended by Section 4006 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79), is codified in 7 U.S.C. § 2014(5)(e)(6)(C)(iv).

technical assistance to grantees that are still trying to improve reporting capacity with other coordinating agencies providing services.

## ***Number of Households***

The national numbers of households receiving LIHEAP assistance in FY 2015, by type of assistance, are shown in Table III-1. State-level numbers of households receiving LIHEAP assistance in FY 2015, by type of assistance, are shown in Table III-2.

**Table III-1. Number of LIHEAP-assisted households and states providing assistance, by type of assistance, as reported by states, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

Type of LIHEAP assistance	Number of states	Number of assisted households
Heating	51	5,560,456
Cooling <sup>2</sup>	19	692,604
Winter crisis <sup>3</sup>	31	955,293
Year-round crisis <sup>4</sup>	22	351,089
Summer crisis	9	114,184
Weatherization <sup>5</sup>	45	72,840
Any type	51	6,244,481 <sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> These data are collected from the *LIHEAP Household Report for FY 2015*. These data are current as of August 23, 2016. Prior to FY 2015, states reported together in the *LIHEAP Household Report* the number of households assisted with winter crisis assistance or year-round crisis assistance. Beginning with the *LIHEAP Household Report for FY 2015*, ACF required states to report the number of households assisted with winter crisis assistance separately from the number of households assisted with year-round crisis assistance. See [Action Transmittal 2016-05](#) for more information on the *LIHEAP Household Report for FY 2015*. A copy of the *LIHEAP Household Report for FY 2015* is available at: [https://liheappm.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/private/training/pm\\_webinar/FY2015\\_Household\\_Report\\_Long\\_Form\\_Template.pdf](https://liheappm.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/private/training/pm_webinar/FY2015_Household_Report_Long_Form_Template.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> The total number of states providing cooling assistance benefits to households (19) differs from the total number of states obligated funding to cooling assistance (18, see Table I-6) because one state (North Dakota) assisted households with non-crisis cooling equipment repair and replacement services using funding obligated to emergency cooling equipment repair and replacement, but reported such households under cooling assistance.

<sup>3</sup> Includes data for households assisted by two states (Alaska, Massachusetts) that provided winter crisis fuel assistance by expediting heating assistance within a statutorily required crisis response timeframe.

<sup>4</sup> Includes data for households assisted by one state (Maryland) that provided year-round crisis fuel assistance solely by expediting heating assistance within a statutorily required crisis response timeframe.

<sup>5</sup> Forty-five states provided weatherization assistance in FY 2015. This total includes states that weatherized households during FY 2015 with funds from FY 2014. Therefore, this total is not comparable to the total number of states that provided FY 2015 weatherization assistance benefits under 'Uses of Funds' (Table I-6).

<sup>6</sup> Two states were unable to report on households receiving 'Any type of LIHEAP assistance' in FY 2015. HHS expects such states to be unable to report such counts.

**Table III-2. Number of LIHEAP-assisted households, by type of assistance and state, as reported by states, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

State	Heating assistance	Cooling assistance <sup>2</sup>	Winter crisis assistance <sup>3</sup>	Year-round crisis assistance <sup>3</sup>	Summer crisis assistance	Weatherization assistance	Any type of assistance <sup>4</sup>
Total	5,560,456	692,604	955,293	351,089	114,184	72,840	6,244,481
Alabama	56,970	41,454	13,382	0	11,073	113	79,235
Alaska <sup>3</sup>	9,212	0	1,324	0	0	68	9,230
Arizona	7,859	18,855	0	6,102	0	461	28,882
Arkansas	58,340	48,164	15,095	0	5,909	409	81,343
California <sup>2</sup>	139,020	--	0	77,647	0	12,712	223,028
Colorado	81,449	0	14,238	0	0	613	81,449
Connecticut	99,088	0	31,888	0	0	0	99,088
Delaware	14,362	9,415	0	1,657	0	0	15,804
Dist. of Col.	7,479	557	0	4,724	197	273	12,957
Florida	33,613	38,974	35,909	0	40,678	1,788	124,117
Georgia	112,523	0	28,832	0	0	560	141,563
Hawaii <sup>2</sup>	8,394	--	0	541	0	0	8,935
Idaho	36,496	0	0	4,313	0	451	38,713
Illinois	185,432	0	26,797	0	0	2,156	189,764
Indiana	117,758	116,651	24,855	0	0	1,195	121,010
Iowa	80,864	0	0	3,642	0	1,388	80,864
Kansas	41,895	0	2,116	0	0	873	44,769
Kentucky	94,564	0	80,523	0	0	671	125,580
Louisiana	30,135	40,844	0	11,734	0	255	68,330
Maine	37,360	0	5,044	0	0	1,123	37,511
Maryland <sup>3</sup>	111,071	0	0	2,229	0	76	111,071
Massachusetts <sup>3</sup>	180,010	0	18,357	0	0	10,254	180,010
Michigan	370,045	0	73,722	0	0	776	509,985
Minnesota	138,877	0	38,695	0	0	1,591	138,995
Mississippi	21,878	20,230	1,348	0	755	492	34,464
Missouri	133,268	0	51,469	0	25,524	1,320	144,312
Montana	18,459	0	0	619	0	1,003	18,468
Nebraska	39,674	11,009	0	8,363	0	270	41,973
Nevada <sup>2</sup>	25,779	--	0	1,434	0	107	25,841
New Hampshire	35,073	0	1,806	0	0	172	35,073
New Jersey	266,624	48,863	29,341	0	0	2,114	280,090
New Mexico	31,285	21,954	4,316	2,841	1,419	328	62,033

<sup>1</sup> The data in this table are current as of August 23, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> A designation of "--" applies to those states that did not provide a separate count for cooling assistance because: 1) their heating assistance household counts include, and cooling assistance household counts exclude, households that received combined heating and cooling assistance (California, Nevada), or 2) households received energy assistance with no differentiation made between heating and cooling assistance (Hawaii). These states reported such household counts under heating assistance.

<sup>3</sup> Households in winter fuel crisis situations (Alaska, Massachusetts) or year-round fuel crisis situations (Maryland) were assisted solely through expedited heating assistance. These states reported such household counts under the type of crisis assistance, but reported the funding obligated under heating assistance (Table I-7).

<sup>4</sup> The national total unduplicated count of households receiving any type of LIHEAP assistance appears as "NA" for Texas and West Virginia. HHS expects such states to be unable to report such counts.

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<b>State</b>	<b>Heating assistance</b>	<b>Cooling assistance<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Winter crisis assistance<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Year-round crisis assistance<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Summer crisis assistance</b>	<b>Weatherization assistance</b>	<b>Any type of assistance<sup>4</sup></b>
New York	1,145,331	4,184	118,951	0	0	4,689	1,163,031
North Carolina	126,108	0	0	104,376	0	1,473	187,865
North Dakota	12,625	91	0	1,112	0	931	12,625
Ohio	403,110	0	131,090	0	17,908	8,661	414,760
Oklahoma	92,294	85,307	0	9,894	0	190	119,217
Oregon	63,225	0	0	6,663	0	814	63,760
Pennsylvania	390,121	0	130,349	0	0	1,067	390,708
Rhode Island	30,021	0	5,892	0	0	1,742	30,021
South Carolina	13,932	9,348	16,951	272	10,721	110	22,199
South Dakota	21,953	0	1,532	0	0	0	23,485
Tennessee	77,419	11,592	0	19,434	0	0	108,445
Texas <sup>4</sup>	19,385	97,084	0	34,263	0	3,571	NA
Utah	32,846	0	0	931	0	513	34,357
Vermont	26,812	0	5,653	0	0	0	26,812
Virginia	126,670	68,028	21,906	0	0	1,173	156,049
Washington	58,507	0	12,471	0	0	947	71,925
West Virginia <sup>4</sup>	76,500	0	9,971	0	0	537	NA
Wisconsin	209,208	0	0	48,298	0	2,387	215,202
Wyoming	9,533	0	1,470	0	0	423	9,533

## ***Income Levels***

Section 2605(b)(2) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8624(b)(2), sets LIHEAP income eligibility for households with incomes that do not exceed the greater of 150 percent of HHSPG and 60 percent of SMI. Grantees cannot set LIHEAP income eligibility below 110 percent of HHSPG. Grantees have the flexibility to set additional program criteria (e.g., asset tests) to determine whether a household is eligible for LIHEAP.

### **Income Eligibility Guidelines**

The SMI estimates for FY 2015 were in effect for LIHEAP at the beginning of FY 2015 (October 1, 2014). They were published on July 21, 2014, on pages 42331-42333 of Vol. 79, No. 139 of the *Federal Register (FR)*; they can be found at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-07-21/pdf/2014-17063.pdf>.

The HHSPG estimates for 2014 were in effect for LIHEAP at the beginning of FY 2015 (October 1, 2014). They were published on January 22, 2014, on pages 3593-3594 of Vol. 79, No. 14 of the *Federal Register (FR)*; they can be found at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-01-22/pdf/2014-01303.pdf>. The federal maximum standard for LIHEAP income eligibility guidelines in effect in FY 2015 were the greater of 150 percent of HHSPG or 60 percent of SMI.

### **Estimated Number of LIHEAP Income Eligible Households**

The number of LIHEAP income eligible households in each state cannot be estimated precisely. Typically, states operate LIHEAP only for part of a year. No source provides seasonal, state-specific data on income and categorical eligibility for LIHEAP. Also, states may use gross household income or net household income in determining LIHEAP income eligibility. Furthermore, a state may annualize one or more months of a household's income to test against its LIHEAP income standard. Given these qualifications, the 2015 CPS ASEC data indicate that an estimated:

- 38.2 million households had incomes at or under the federal income maximum of the greater of 150 percent of HHSPG or 60 percent SMI; and
- 31.2 million households had incomes at or under the stricter state income standards that can range from 110 percent of poverty to the federal income maximum as adopted by state.

Previous state estimates indicate that about two-thirds of the national total of households receiving winter or year-round crisis assistance also receive regular heating assistance. Accounting for this overlap among households receiving both types of assistance, an estimated 6.0 million households received help with heating costs through heating, winter, or year-round crisis in FY 2015 compared to 6.3 million households in FY 2014.

The estimated 6.0 million households that received help with heating costs in FY 2015 represent about 16 percent of all households with incomes under the federal income maximum, and about 19 percent of all households with incomes under the stricter income standards adopted by many states.

**Estimated Income Levels**

As shown in Table III-3, LIHEAP households receiving heating assistance were among the poorer households compared to LIHEAP income eligible households under federal or state income standards. Part of this population also may have received federal funds for home energy-related expenses from other sources, e.g., Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, subsidized rent, or public housing. In Table III-3, ACF relied on the 2015 CPS ASEC to develop the percent distributions of LIHEAP income eligible households. ACF relied on the states’ *LIHEAP Household Reports for FY 2015* for development of the percent distribution of LIHEAP heating assistance households.

Please note the following caveats about the data in Table III-3:

- Comparison of poverty level distributions between CPS ASEC data and state-reported data should be viewed with caution, as there may be differences in how the two data sources count household income.
- Some assisted households may have gross incomes that exceed the federal or state income maxima if states used net income or calculated household income for several months in determining LIHEAP income eligibility.
- The median poverty level, based on the 2014 HHSPG and adjusted for household size, is 112.0 percent for LIHEAP income eligible households that are at or below the previous federal LIHEAP income maximum (60 percent SMI), using the 2015 CPS ASEC.
- The median poverty level, based on the 2014 HHSPG and adjusted for household size, is 97.2 percent for LIHEAP income eligible households under the stricter state LIHEAP income standards, using the 2015 CPS ASEC.
- The median poverty level, based on the 2014 HHSPG and adjusted for household size, is 84.1 percent for LIHEAP heating assistance households, based on data aggregated from each state’s *LIHEAP Household Report for FY 2015*.

**Table III-3. Percent of LIHEAP income eligible households compared to LIHEAP heating-assisted households, as estimated from the 2015 CPS ASEC and states’ LIHEAP Household Reports for FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

	<b>Under 75% of 2014 HHSPG</b>	<b>75%- 100% of 2014 HHSPG</b>	<b>101%- 125% of 2014 HHSPG</b>	<b>126%- 150% of 2014 HHSPG</b>	<b>Over 150% of 2014 HHSPG</b>
<b>Low Income Households</b>					
At or below federal income maximum standard	26.9%	15.3%	15.3%	15.7%	26.8%
At or below state income standards	33.0	18.7	18.1	14.9	15.2
LIHEAP assisted households (heating assistance) <sup>2</sup>	40.2	26.9	16.0	9.2	7.6

<sup>1</sup> Table III-3 is based on state-reported data on the *LIHEAP Household Report for FY 2015* and population estimates of LIHEAP income eligible households – those eligible under the federal income maximum (the greater of 60 percent of SMI and 150 percent of HHSPG) – from the 2015 CPS ASEC.

<sup>2</sup> These data are current as of August 23, 2016.

## LIHEAP Benefit Levels

As shown in Table III-4, there was a wide variation in benefit levels in FY 2015 nationally among the types of assistance, as in previous years. The national average benefit was \$311 for heating assistance, which increased to \$371 when heating and winter and/or year-round crisis fuel assistance were combined to account for the overlap in households receiving both heating assistance benefits and fuel crisis benefits for heating purposes. The national average benefit was \$385 for winter crisis assistance only and \$369 for year-round crisis assistance only. The national average benefit was \$292 for cooling assistance, and the national average benefit was \$327 for summer crisis assistance. The combined benefit for heating purposes (heating and winter and/or year-round crisis) represented a one percent increase from that in FY 2014 (\$366) and seven percent increase from that in FY 2013 (\$346). State-level benefit data are shown in Table III-5.

ACF gathered household average benefits shown in Tables III-4 and III-5 from state-reported estimates from the *LIHEAP Performance Data Form - Grantee Survey Section for FY 2015*, as described in Appendix A of this report (available at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-reports-to-congress>). This data collection did not estimate household average benefits for weatherization assistance. Such estimates would not be comparable to estimated household average benefits for the other types of LIHEAP assistance due to the relatively larger role of labor and other support costs involved in weatherization and wide variations in how states define low-cost weatherization. The data do not reflect average benefits for furnace or air conditioner repair/replacement. In addition, average benefits are not comparable to calculations of the amount of obligated funds per household due to states obligating funds in one federal fiscal year but expending them in the next federal fiscal year.

**Table III-4. Estimated average and range of LIHEAP fuel assistance benefit levels, by type of LIHEAP assistance, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

Type of assistance	Average household benefit	Household benefit range
Heating <sup>2</sup>	\$311	\$77–\$1,024
Cooling	292	76–712
Winter crisis	385	190–663
Year-round crisis <sup>3</sup>	369	186–1,650
Summer crisis	327	182–467

<sup>1</sup> The data in this table are current as of August 23, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Average household benefits do not include funds used for nominal SNAP heating assistance as ACF required grantees to break out obligations and households assisted with nominal LIHEAP benefits for FY 2015.

<sup>3</sup> The estimated average household benefit and household benefit range for year-round crisis assistance excludes South Carolina, which provided emergency furnace and air conditioner repair and replacement services (in addition to fuel crisis bill payment assistance) to households receiving year-round crisis assistance in FY 2015. As such, South Carolina's reported average household benefit for year-round crisis assistance is not comparable to other states providing year-round crisis assistance for bill payment assistance only.

**Table III-5. Estimated household average benefits for fuel assistance, by type of assistance and state, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

State	Heating assistance	Cooling assistance <sup>2</sup>	Winter crisis assistance <sup>3</sup>	Year-round crisis assistance <sup>3</sup>	Summer crisis assistance
Alabama	\$319	\$307	\$342	\$0	\$312
Alaska	1,024	0	--	0	0
Arizona	524	406	0	482	0
Arkansas	147	76	405	0	443
California	318	--	0	480	0
Colorado	581	0	581	0	0
Connecticut	479	0	324	0	0
Delaware	470	277	0	757	0
Dist. of Col.	827	712	0	374	0
Florida	390	381	374	0	363
Georgia	338	0	343	0	0
Hawaii	629	--	0	329	0
Idaho	263	0	0	232	0
Illinois	513	0	447	0	0
Indiana	287	147	194	0	0
Iowa	447	0	0	292	0
Kansas	558	0	558	0	0
Kentucky	140	0	229	0	0
Louisiana	364	364	0	327	0
Maine	682	0	330	0	0
Maryland	518	0	0	--	0
Massachusetts	691	0	--	0	0
Michigan	135	0	443	0	0
Minnesota	518	0	383	0	0
Mississippi	444	443	465	0	467
Missouri	268	0	348	0	197
Montana	490	0	0	1,650	0
Nebraska	418	466	0	250	0
Nevada	330	--	0	394	0
New Hampshire	663	0	663	0	0

<sup>1</sup> The data in this table are current as of August 23, 2016. Average benefits do not include funds used to provide nominal benefits to SNAP households or households assisted with such benefits as grantees were required to break out these obligations and households for FY 2015.

<sup>2</sup> A designation of "--" indicates for cooling assistance that combined heating and cooling assistance was provided (California, Nevada), or energy assistance was provided with no differentiation made between heating and cooling assistance (Hawaii). These states reported such funds under heating assistance.

<sup>3</sup> A designation of "--" indicates for winter crisis assistance or year-round crisis assistance that such states did not prove a separate count because they provided households in winter or year-round crisis assistance with expedited heating assistance (Alaska, Maryland, Massachusetts).

<b>State</b>	<b>Heating assistance</b>	<b>Cooling assistance<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Winter crisis assistance<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Year-round crisis assistance<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Summer crisis assistance</b>
New Jersey	297	200	384	0	0
New Mexico	194	182	190	186	182
New York	457	699	431	0	0
North Carolina	281	0	0	252	0
North Dakota	759	0	0	217	0
Ohio	316	0	287	0	323
Oklahoma	77	172	0	240	0
Oregon	342	0	0	367	0
Pennsylvania	243	0	377	0	0
Rhode Island	840	0	500	0	0
South Carolina <sup>4</sup>	517	523	422	NA <sup>4</sup>	450
South Dakota	959	0	302	0	0
Tennessee	450	450	0	450	0
Texas	672	598	0	518	0
Utah	387	0	0	389	0
Vermont	510	0	342	0	0
Virginia	343	185	378	0	0
Washington	395	0	395	0	0
West Virginia	226	0	226	0	0
Wisconsin	266	0	0	298	0
Wyoming	581	0	344	0	0

### ***LIHEAP Offset of Average Heating Costs***

The purpose of LIHEAP is to assist low income households, particularly those with the lowest incomes that pay a high proportion of household income for home energy, primarily in meeting their immediate home energy needs. LIHEAP is not intended to pay or offset the entire home energy costs of low income households. Rather, LIHEAP supplements other resources available to households for paying home energy costs. The percent of heating costs offset by LIHEAP assistance in FY 2015 varied by Census region, as shown in Table III-6. Data for a reliable percent of cooling costs offset by LIHEAP assistance is not available.

<sup>4</sup> South Carolina's reported average household benefit for year-round crisis assistance (\$3,875) is excluded because the state provided emergency furnace and air conditioner repair and replacement services (in addition to fuel crisis bill payment assistance) to households receiving year-round crisis assistance in FY 2015. As such, South Carolina's reported average household benefit for year-round crisis assistance is not comparable to other states providing year-round crisis assistance for bill payment assistance only.

**Table III-6. Average percent of annual residential energy and heating costs for LIHEAP recipient households, nationally and by Census region, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

Census region	Average LIHEAP household residential energy costs <sup>2</sup>	Average LIHEAP household heating costs	Average LIHEAP benefit for heating costs <sup>3</sup>	Percentage of residential energy costs offset by LIHEAP benefit <sup>4</sup>	Percentage of heating costs offset by LIHEAP benefit <sup>5</sup>
Total	\$2,053	\$690	\$371	18.1%	53.8%
Northeast	2,450	1,022	342	14.0	33.5
Midwest	1,933	690	363	18.8	52.6
South	2,024	453	395	19.5	87.3
West <sup>6</sup>	1,234	264	467	37.9	177.0

Compared to FY 2014, LIHEAP benefits for heating costs offset a higher percentage of LIHEAP household heating expenditures, increasing from about 46 percent in FY 2014 to about 54 percent in FY 2015, for the following reasons:

- Using adjusted data from the Energy Information Administration’s (EIA’s) 2009 RECS, average home heating expenditures by LIHEAP households receiving benefits for heating costs in FY 2015 were projected to be \$690. Such adjusted data indicate that average home heating expenditures by LIHEAP households receiving heating assistance benefits decreased by about 13 percent between FY 2015 and FY 2014 (\$797). The average home heating expenditures by LIHEAP recipient households in FY 2015 was about the same as in FY 2013 (\$688) and about 18 percent greater than in FY 2012 (\$587).
- A decrease in home heating expenditures generally is a consequence of a warmer winter, a decrease in fuel prices, or both. The FY 2015 heating season was warmer than the FY 2014 heating season, and home heating consumption decreased by about four percent for LIHEAP recipient households. However, compared to FY 2013, home heating consumption in FY 2015 increased by about six percent for LIHEAP recipient households.
- The decrease in home heating expenditures by LIHEAP recipient households in FY 2015 compared to FY 2014 was driven by the decrease in home heating consumption (warmer heating season), rather than a decrease in fuel prices. A composite energy index of

<sup>1</sup> LIHEAP fuel assistance is not intended to pay or offset the entire home energy costs of low income households. The experiences of individual LIHEAP recipient households may vary widely from the estimates of average residential energy costs, heating costs, and percent offset.

<sup>2</sup> Adjusted weighted averages are derived from the 2009 RECS.

<sup>3</sup> Average benefit was calculated by dividing the sum of state estimates of obligated funds for heating, winter crisis, and year-round crisis assistance from states’ *LIHEAP Performance Data Form - Grantee Survey Section for FY 2015* by the number of households that received heating, winter crisis, and/or year-round crisis assistance from states’ *LIHEAP Household Reports for FY 2015*. The data reported on these form are current as of August 23, 2016.

<sup>4</sup> LIHEAP fuel assistance is intended to assist eligible households with that portion of residential energy used for home energy, i.e., home heating or cooling.

<sup>5</sup> Percent offset of cooling costs by LIHEAP fuel assistance is not available.

<sup>6</sup> Percent of heating costs offset by LIHEAP benefit includes the benefits of three western states that either provided combined heating and cooling assistance or made no differentiation between heating and cooling assistance and that reported such benefits under heating assistance. This resulted in a somewhat larger percentage of heating costs offset by LIHEAP heating benefits in the West Census Region.

electricity, natural gas, and fuel oil prices was about the same in FY 2015 (index = 386) as it was in FY 2014 (index score = 387). Compared to FY 2013, composite fuel prices in FY 2015 decreased by about two percent, resulting in similar home heating expenditures by LIHEAP recipient households in FY 2015 and FY 2013, despite slightly higher home heating consumption in FY 2015.

As noted above, the average LIHEAP benefit for heating costs increased by less than two percent from \$366 in FY 2014 to \$371 in FY 2015. However, the offset percentage has increased from FY 2014 to FY 2015 due to a decrease in home heating expenditures and a warmer winter in FY 2015.

## ***Household Characteristics***

States are required to report on the number and income levels of households assisted and the number of assisted households having at least one member who is elderly (i.e., 60 years old or older), disabled, or a young child (i.e., five years old or younger). In addition, states are required to report the number and income levels of households applying for LIHEAP assistance, not just those households that received LIHEAP assistance (42 U.S.C. § 8624(c)(1)(G)). However, the statute does not require that the data on applicant households be included in the *LIHEAP Report to Congress* (42 U.S.C. § 8629). Given the different states' definitions of "applicant household," the data at the national level are not uniform, and are not included in this report.

This section includes national tables which show the number of households receiving each type of LIHEAP assistance, by household poverty levels. This section also includes national tables that show for each type of assistance the percentage of LIHEAP recipient households that contained at least one elderly member, disabled member, or young child. The information is derived from each state's *LIHEAP Household Report for FY 2015* that was submitted to HHS. State-specific supplemental tables showing the number of households receiving each type of assistance, by household poverty levels and for households containing members who are elderly, disabled, or young children are available at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-reports-to-congress>

As shown by the state-reported data in Table III-7, year-round crisis assistance had the greatest percentage of assisted households under 75 percent of poverty compared to other types of assistance (58.2 percent of year-round crisis recipients). Weatherization assistance had the greatest percentage of assisted households over 150 percent of the poverty level (21.6 percent of weatherization assistance recipients).

The national percentages listed in Table III-7 are calculated for those states which reported complete data, by type of LIHEAP assistance. Supplemental Tables III-7a to III-7f (available at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-reports-to-congress>) show state-level data. Table A-1 in Appendix A (available at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-reports-to-congress>) indicates the percentages of assisted households for which uniform data are provided. Uniform data on households classified by intervals of the 2014 HHSPG ranged from 99.7 percent for weatherization assistance to 100 percent for all other types of assistance (heating, cooling, winter crisis, year-round crisis, and summer crisis assistance)

**Table III-7. Percent of assisted households, classified by 2014 HHS Poverty Guideline intervals, by type of LIHEAP assistance, nationally, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

2014 HHS Poverty Guideline intervals <sup>2</sup>	Heating assistance	Cooling assistance	Winter crisis assistance	Year-round crisis assistance	Summer crisis assistance	Weatherization assistance <sup>3</sup>
Under 75%	40.2%	43.2%	48.7%	58.2%	52.2%	28.1%
75%-100%	26.9	32.8	21.0	19.4	21.7	20.0
101%-125%	16.0	14.7	14.2	11.3	14.4	16.5
126%-150%	9.2	6.4	9.2	5.7	8.9	13.5
Over 150%	7.6	2.8	6.9	5.4	2.8	21.6

**Presence of Elderly, Disabled, and Young Children**

The following information is based on state-reported data on the *LIHEAP Household Report for FY 2015* and population estimates on LIHEAP income eligible households—those eligible under the federal income maximum (the greater of 60 percent of SMI and 150 percent of HHSPG)—from the 2015 CPS ASEC (as displayed in Table III-8):

- About 33.6 percent of households receiving heating assistance included at least one elderly member (i.e., 60 years or older), compared to 41.5 percent of all low income households under the federal income maximum that have at least one elderly member. The percentage of assisted households with at least one elderly member ranged from 22.1 percent for winter crisis assistance to 44.0 percent for weatherization assistance.
- About 38.3 percent of households receiving heating assistance included at least one disabled member (as defined by the states), compared to 28.4 percent of all low income households under the federal income maximum that have at least one disabled member. The percentage of assisted households with at least one disabled member, as defined by the states, ranged from 32.7 percent for weatherization assistance to 46.3 percent for cooling assistance.
- About 18.6 percent of households receiving heating assistance included at least one child five years old or younger; compared to 17.5 percent of all low income households under the federal income maximum that have at least one child five years old or younger. The percentage of assisted households with at least one young child ranged from 15.9 percent for weatherization assistance to 29.3 percent for year-round crisis assistance.

Definitions of “elderly,” “disabled,” and “young child” are as follows: “elderly” refers to a person who is 60 years old or older; “disability” varies from state-to-state; and “young child” is a person who is five years of age or younger. A household could have members that were reported in more than one of the three groups.

<sup>1</sup> The data in this table are current as of August 23, 2016. Percent distributions may not add up to 100 percent across income levels due to rounding.

<sup>2</sup> Poverty percentages are computed using gross household incomes adjusted by household size. However, there are states that use net household income in determining income eligibility. For those states, the distribution of poverty percentages could be skewed towards the higher end of the poverty level.

<sup>3</sup> Two states (Maine, Washington) were unable to provide income data on a total of 202 weatherized households. As a result, percentages of households receiving weatherization assistance by 2014 HHSPG add up to less than 100%.

The national percentages listed in Table III-8 are calculated for those states which reported complete data, by type of LIHEAP assistance. Supplemental Tables III-8a to III-8g (available at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-reports-to-congress>) show state-level data. Table A-1 in Appendix A (available at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-reports-to-congress>) indicates the percentages of assisted households for which uniform data are provided. Uniform data on households classified as vulnerable ranged for 99.2 percent for weatherization assistance to 100 percent for all other types of assistance (heating, cooling, winter crisis, year-round crisis, and summer crisis assistance). Uniform data for an unduplicated count of elderly, disabled, or young child members in each household was much lower as some states were unable to provide these data.

**Table III-8. Percent of assisted households with at least one member who is elderly, disabled, or a young child, by type of assistance, nationally, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

Type of vulnerable household	Heating assistance	Cooling assistance	Winter crisis assistance	Year-round crisis assistance	Summer crisis assistance	Weatherization assistance	Any type of assistance
Elderly	33.6%	36.3%	22.1%	23.8%	28.7%	44.0%	NA <sup>2</sup>
Disabled	38.3	46.3	36.5	33.1	39.0	32.7	NA <sup>2</sup>
Young child	18.6	19.4	23.6	29.3	23.1	15.9	NA <sup>2</sup>
Elderly, Disabled or Young Child	69.2	72.2	64.2	64.3	69.0	70.3	NA <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The data in this table are current as of August 23, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> 'NA' indicates that data were not available or were reported incorrectly. Two states were unable to provide a reliable unduplicated count of households that received any type of LIHEAP assistance, and one additional state was unable to provide a reliable unduplicated count of vulnerable members in households which received any type of LIHEAP assistance.

## **IV. Program Implementation Data**

Part IV provides program information and data about: the provision of the types of LIHEAP assistance; the implementation of LIHEAP assurances; the provision of energy crisis intervention; and the results of HHS monitoring reviews of LIHEAP grantee programs in FY 2015.

### ***Types of LIHEAP Assistance***

State LIHEAP grantees obligated FY 2015 funds for the following types of LIHEAP assistance:

- All states provided either heating assistance or home energy benefits that did not distinguish between heating and cooling assistance.
- All states furnish crisis assistance of some kind.
- For households facing winter energy crises, 29 states provided separate winter crisis fuel assistance benefits, two states provided winter crisis fuel assistance benefits *only* through expedited access to heating assistance.
- For households facing year-round (i.e., 10-12 months) energy crises, 21 states provided separate year-round crisis fuel assistance benefits (including two states that provided other funds separately under winter crisis fuel assistance) that may have assisted households facing energy crises during the summer, one state provided year-round crisis fuel assistance benefits *only* through expedited access to heating assistance.
- Three states provided combined heating and cooling assistance benefits; 18 states provided separate cooling assistance benefits; and eight states provided separate summer crisis benefits.
- Thirty states specified that they provided emergency furnace or air conditioner replacement/repair benefits.
- Forty-five states provided weatherization assistance benefits, excluding states that provided assistance with funds obligated from the previous federal fiscal year.

### ***Implementation of LIHEAP Assurances***

To receive LIHEAP regular block grant funds in FY 2015, grantees were required by section 2605(b) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8624(b), to submit 16 assurances signed by the chief executive officer and a plan describing:

- Eligibility requirements for each type of assistance provided, including criteria for designating an emergency under the crisis assistance component.
- Benefit levels for each type of assistance.
- Estimates of the amount of funds to be used for each component and alternate uses of funds reserved for crisis assistance in the event they are not needed for that purpose.
- Any steps to be taken (in addition to those required to be carried out in section 2605(b)(5))

of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8624(b)(5)) to target households with high home energy burdens.

- How the grantee will carry out the 16 assurances required by section 2605(b) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8624(b).
- Weatherization and other energy-related home repair services, if any, to be provided, and the extent to which the grantee will use the DOE's Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) rules for its weatherization component.
- Information on the number and income of households served during the previous year, and the number of households with elderly members (60 years or older), disabled members (as defined by the states), or young children (five years old or younger).

As required under section 2610(b) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8629(b), this report provides information about the overall manner in which states carried out the assurances described in section 2605(b)(2), (5), (8), and (15) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8624(b). Section 2605(b)(15) covers outreach and intake sites for energy crisis intervention programs. This report also provides information about energy crisis intervention programs, as required by section 2604(c) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8623(c).

### **Household Eligibility**

The unit of eligibility for LIHEAP is the household, which is defined by the LIHEAP statute as “any individual or group of individuals who are living together as one economic unit for whom residential energy customarily is purchased in common or who make undesignated payments for energy in the form of rent.” Section 2605(b)(2) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8624(b)(2) allows LIHEAP grantees to use two standards in determining household eligibility for LIHEAP assistance:

- **Categorical eligibility** for households with one or more individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly Food Stamps), or certain needs-tested veteran benefits, without regard for household income.

Categorical eligibility is a rarely used eligibility standard, although a few states make automatic payments to households which receive assistance under one or more of the public assistance programs that confer categorical eligibility.

- **Income eligibility** for households with incomes not exceeding the greater of 150 percent of HHSPG and 60 percent of SMI. Grantees may target assistance to poorer households by setting income levels as low as 110 percent of the poverty level. Eligibility priority may be given to households with high energy burden or need.

As shown in Table IV-1, about three-quarters or more of the states set their LIHEAP income eligibility levels at or above 150 percent of the poverty level for heating, winter crisis, year-round crisis, and weatherization assistance. The percentage of states that set their LIHEAP income eligibility levels at 110 percent of the poverty level ranged from zero percent to six percent, depending on the type of assistance provided. A supplemental table showing the

LIHEAP income eligibility levels as a percentage of 2014 HHSPG, by state, for each type of LIHEAP assistance, is available at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-reports-to-congress>

HHS's report, [Low Income Home Energy Data for FY 2015](#), provides states with estimates of the number of households that are LIHEAP income eligible and have elderly, disabled, or young child members in their states to calculate their individual LIHEAP reciprocity targeting index scores. These data can help states determine the extent to which they are targeting heating assistance to vulnerable households and to decide whether improvements are needed to achieve a reciprocity targeting index score of at least 100 for vulnerable groups in their states.

**Table IV-1. Percent of states selecting various maximum LIHEAP income eligibility standards, FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

<b>LIHEAP income eligibility standards (by percentage intervals of 2014 HHS Poverty Guidelines)</b>	<b>Heating assistance</b>	<b>Cooling assistance</b>	<b>Winter crisis assistance<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Year- round crisis assistance<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Summer crisis assistance<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Weatherization assistance<sup>5</sup></b>
Number of states	51	18	31	22	8	45
Household income at or above 150% (percentage of States)	75%	67%	74%	82%	63%	75%
Household income between 111%– 149% (percentage of States)	22	28	26	14	38	22
Household income at 110% (percentage of States)	4	6	0	5	0	4

**Criteria for Targeting Benefits**

Section 2605(b)(5) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8624(b)(5), requires grantees to provide the highest level of assistance to households which have the lowest incomes and the highest energy costs or needs in relation to income.

The LIHEAP statute defines “highest home energy needs” as “the home energy requirements of a household determined by taking into account both the energy burden of such household and the unique situation of such household that results from having members of vulnerable populations, including very young children, individuals with disabilities, and frail older individuals.” However, the LIHEAP statute does not define the terms “young children,” “individuals with disabilities,” and “frail older individuals.”

States use a variety of factors and methods to take into account relative income, energy costs, family size, and need for home energy in determining benefit levels. In FY 2015, the most common measures for varying heating benefits were fuel type, energy consumption or cost, household size, and income as a percentage of the poverty level. Other factors used included the presence of a “vulnerable” person (e.g., elderly, disabled, or young children), housing type, and

<sup>1</sup> The data in this table are current as of August 23, 2016. These data are derived from *LIHEAP Performance Data Form - Grantee Survey Section for FY 2015*. Percentage distributions may not add up to 100 percent across income levels due to rounding.

<sup>2</sup> Refers to winter crisis assistance only. The number of states and percentages includes two states (Alaska, Massachusetts) that provided expedited heating assistance for winter crisis fuel situations through heating assistance funds only. Percentage intervals exclude other types of crisis assistance that mostly involved furnace repair or replacements.

<sup>3</sup> Refers to year-round crisis assistance only. The number of states and percentages include one state (Maryland) that provided expedited heating assistance for year-round crisis fuel situations through heating assistance funds only. Percentage intervals exclude other types of crisis assistance that mostly involved furnace repair or replacement.

<sup>4</sup> Refers to summer crisis assistance only. The number of states and percentages exclude one state (District of Columbia) that provided a year-round crisis assistance program and obligated funds under “year-round crisis assistance”, but reported households served during the summer months under “summer crisis assistance” and households served during other months of the year under “year-round crisis assistance”.

<sup>5</sup> Percentages do not include states which served weatherization households in FY 2015 with weatherization funds obligated but not expended in FY 2014.

the amount of energy subsidy from another program. Presence of an elderly person or young child in the household as a benefit determinant has become more common in response to provisions of the Human Services Amendments of 1994, which added energy “needs” as a factor in determining benefits.

States tended to use fewer variables to determine benefit amounts for crisis, cooling, and weatherization components. For example, since almost all air conditioning is powered with electricity, fuel type variations are not a factor. Similarly, the amount spent on weatherization generally is determined by the amount of work needed, up to a maximum set by the state. Generally, states are in substantial compliance with this assurance.

As part of its work under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993, HHS has been developing a series of performance indicators that can be used to measure LIHEAP performance in targeting vulnerable low income households. See Tables IV-2a and IV-2b, and the accompanying text, for ACF’s approach to LIHEAP performance measurement. The status of this work is also described in HHS’s report, [Low Income Home Energy Data for FY 2015](#).

### **Treatment of LIHEAP Income Eligible Households and Owners/Renters**

Section 2605(b)(8)(A) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8624(b)(8)(A), prohibits LIHEAP grantees from limiting LIHEAP benefits to categorically eligible households only, thus excluding LIHEAP income-eligible households from receiving LIHEAP benefits. As reported, no grantees excluded, as a class, LIHEAP income-eligible households from receiving LIHEAP benefits in FY 2015.

Section 2605(b)(8)(B) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8624(b)(8)(B), requires that owners and renters be treated equitably. States are in substantial compliance with this assurance.

In addition, section 927 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (P.L. 102-550), as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 8624 note, prohibits LIHEAP grantees from excluding households living in subsidized housing who pay out-of-pocket for utilities and receive a utility allowance. However, it permits states to consider the tenant’s utility allowance in determining the amount of LIHEAP assistance to which they are entitled, provided that the size of any reduction in benefits is reasonably related to any utility allowance received. It does not address the issue of subsidized housing tenants whose energy costs are included in their rent.

### ***Energy Crisis Intervention***

Section 2604(c) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8623(c), requires grantees to do the following with respect to providing energy crisis intervention:

- Reserve a reasonable amount of funds for energy crisis intervention until March 15 of each program year.
- Respond to energy crises within certain time limits as specified in section 2604(c)(1) and (2) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8623(c)(1) & (2). Grantees shall provide assistance to resolve an energy crisis no later than 48 hours after an eligible household applies for energy crisis benefits and no later than 18 hours if the eligible household is in a life-

threatening situation.

- Accept applications for energy crisis benefits at sites that are geographically accessible to all households and provide to low income individuals who are physically infirm the means (1) to submit applications for energy crisis benefits without leaving their residences; or (2) to travel to the sites at which such applications are accepted.

With regard to energy crisis intervention activities, section 2605(c)(1) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8624(c)(1), requires each grantee to provide the following information to HHS as part of each grantee's application to HHS for LIHEAP funds:

- Eligibility requirements to be used for energy crisis assistance.
- Estimated amounts that will be used for energy crisis intervention.
- Criteria for designating a crisis.
- Benefit levels to be used for assistance to be provided in such an emergency.
- Uses of any reserved funds that remain unexpended for emergencies after March 15.

Generally, states are in substantial compliance with energy crisis intervention requirements. In FY 2015, the applications indicated that:

- Grantees would reserve a specific amount or percentage of funds for crisis assistance until March 15, 2015. Most states set aside a percentage of the state's LIHEAP funds for a separate crisis component, which operated until March 15 or later.
- Grantees would designate the actual or imminent loss of home energy as emergencies. With rare exceptions, states required applicant households to document their energy crisis situation, as well as meet other eligibility criteria. A utility shut-off notice or documentation from a delivered fuel vendor that a household's fuel was or was about to be depleted are examples of such documentation. Several states handled crisis assistance situations by "fast tracking" heating and/or cooling assistance funds so that crises were resolved in a timely fashion in FY 2015.
- In a few cases, grantees also required other circumstances for an energy crisis or emergency, such as having made a good faith effort to pay the fuel or utility bill, or having unexpected expenses during the prior month.
- Grantees generally would use the amount needed to alleviate the emergency, up to a set maximum, in determining the assistance to be provided in such an emergency; and grantees would keep emergency components open after March 15, reprogram unexpended funds reserved for crises back into other LIHEAP components, or include the funds in their carryover amount. Funds unexpended for crisis by March 15 or, if later, the close of the crisis component, were used for other components or carried over into the next federal fiscal year.

## ***HHS Monitoring of LIHEAP Grantee Programs***

### **Audits**

Section 2605(b)(10) of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8624(b)(10), requires grantees to assure the proper disbursement of and accounting for federal funds paid to grantees under the LIHEAP statute, including procedures for fiscal monitoring of the provision of LIHEAP assistance. It also requires them to comply with the provisions of the Single Audit Act, 31 U.S.C. 7501 *et seq.*

### **Compliance Reviews**

Sections 2608 and 2609A of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8627 & 8628a, establish a number of oversight and enforcement responsibilities for HHS. HHS is required to respond expeditiously to complaints that grantees have failed to expend funds in accordance with the LIHEAP statute. In addition, HHS is to monitor several grantees' use of funds each year to evaluate their programmatic and fiscal compliance with the LIHEAP statutes. Also, this section requires HHS to withhold funds from any grantee failing to expend its allocation substantially in accordance with the law. HHS also has a general responsibility to conduct on-site compliance reviews of LIHEAP grantees.

Based on a prioritization selection process, HHS selected and conducted on-site LIHEAP compliance reviews at 13 states: Arkansas, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Utah. HHS also conducted on-site LIHEAP compliance reviews at three tribes: The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (Montana), Shoshone Bannock Tribes (Idaho), and Spirit Lake Tribe (North Dakota).

The results showed many instances of grantee noteworthy practices. At the same time there were instances of non-compliance with federal requirements. The most notable issues found in some of the programs related to: inconsistent application of the benefit matrix across households; inconsistent application of citizenship/qualified alien status; inconsistent treatment of renters qualifying for assistance; improper accounting of vendor refunds in federal reports; inadequate monitoring of LIHEAP funds transferred to other state agencies for administration of LIHEAP-funded weatherization programs; inadequate waste, fraud and abuse prevention policies; inadequate monitoring of subgrantees and vendors including inadequate state controls to track funding obligation by subgrantees; inadequate opportunity for fair hearings by applicants; lack of adequate consumer protections with energy vendors; unclear delegation of state responsibilities to subgrantees; administrative cost limit violations; lack of definitions and policies for "obligation" and "expenditure" of LIHEAP funds; and lack of distinction in grantee policies between types of home energy crises. Once a compliance review is complete, HHS provides technical assistance to grantees for development of plans to correct these issues.

HHS uses the site visits as an opportunity to provide on-site technical assistance regarding areas of non-compliance and to share examples of approaches taken by other grantees. HHS also provides intensive technical assistance to LIHEAP grantees throughout the year, through in-depth training workshops and on an individual basis remotely and by follow-up technical assistance visits. This technical assistance process is a valuable tool to address potential

compliance issues, often while proposals are in the development stage, to identify potential problems early on and work in partnership for continuous improvement. Furthermore, HHS works with stakeholder associations, state directors, and various HHS-sponsored work groups to resolve issues that were identified in the monitoring process.

## ***Program Integrity***

HHS has zero tolerance for waste, fraud, and abuse. Cases of suspected LIHEAP fraud are either turned over to the HHS Inspector General or initiate an on-site compliance review of the grantee's LIHEAP by the Division of Energy Assistance. HHS has taken major steps to work with LIHEAP grantees to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse and to ensure LIHEAP program integrity.

On April 13, 2012, the LIHEAP Program Integrity working group reported its findings, recommendations, and next steps in a report entitled [\*LIHEAP Program Integrity Working Group Final Report\*](#).

In FY 2015, HHS received a cost-benefit analysis and recommendations from a contracted study regarding the possible implementation of certain third-party electronic application data verification measures. Such recommendations consisted of the following:

- Giving grantees access to third party databases, such as Social Security Administration (SSA) verification systems;
- Guiding grantees on how to use third party electronic verification of data to increase program integrity;
- Guiding grantees on how to integrate third party verified data into existing systems and processes;
- Guiding tribal grantees on how to do the following:
  - Develop model system business requirements for tribal LIHEAP grantees, and provide guidance on how to use the data they collect;
  - Identify and provide training on how tribes can share information among tribally-administered public assistance programs, and engage a trusted and experienced tribal expert to assist with data exchange implementation; and
  - Help identify, develop, and disseminate model data exchange agreements for states, tribes, and the federal government to use in negotiating Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and contracts, and provide trainings that disperse those model agreements into their component parts.

HHS has been analyzing the information provided by the Program Integrity working group and the contractor to determine the feasibility of further investments in this area. With respect to LIHEAP, there have been significant challenges for grantees gaining access to systems such as through SSA due to security limitations to such data exchanges. For example, typically such data exchanges are only granted by SSA to one state agency, which may not be the LIHEAP cognizant agency. SSA also does not allow the data exchange to involve the local administering agencies if they are non-public, and many LIHEAP local administering agencies are Community Action Agencies and other non-profits. HHS continues to provide annual training to LIHEAP

grantees through meetings, one-on-one technical assistance, and webinars on program integrity issues including data exchanges. HHS has made progress in building state LIHEAP capacity towards data exchanges more broadly, particularly in the performance management field as noted in the next section of this report.

## ***Performance Measurement***

This section describes ACF's approach to LIHEAP performance measurement. Included are LIHEAP's performance goals and measures, as well as current statistics on program performance.

### **Performance Goals**

HHS has focused its annual LIHEAP performance goals on targeting the availability of LIHEAP heating assistance to low income households that had at least one member who is elderly, disabled, or a young child.

HHS's current annual LIHEAP performance objectives are to:

- Increase the recipient targeting index score of LIHEAP households having at least one member who is 60 years old or older.
- Maintain the recipient targeting index score of LIHEAP households having at least one member who is five years old or younger.

### **Performance Measures**

ACF has developed reciprocity targeting indices as LIHEAP performance measures. HHS uses reciprocity targeting indices for households with an elderly member and households with a young child. These indices are used to track how well LIHEAP heating assistance is targeted to these two groups of vulnerable households. The index values range from zero to infinity. On average, an index value less than 100, or greater than 100 determines whether the target group is ineffectively targeted, or effectively targeted, respectively, in relation to that target group's representation in the total LIHEAP income eligible population.

These measures are based on two data sources: (1) the CPS ASEC; and (2) states' LIHEAP Household Reports. See Appendix A (available at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-reports-to-congress>) for more information on these data sources.

### **Performance Measurement Data**

Tables IV-2a and IV-2b show the LIHEAP reciprocity targeting performance measures from FY 2003 through FY 2015. The first column shows the fiscal year. The second column shows the performance targets to be reached and the third column shows the targeting index scores that were actually achieved. In FY 2003, LIHEAP began collecting data on these three measures and set baseline targets (to be reached). A baseline is a benchmark used as a basis for comparison.

For measure 1A, LIHEAP consistently has not targeted benefits to LIHEAP income eligible households with an elderly member—insofar as LIHEAP recipient households with an elderly

member do not make up a greater percentage of LIHEAP recipient households than such households make up of LIHEAP income eligible households. The FY 2004 through FY 2011 targeting index scores fluctuated between 74 and 79. In FY 2012, the targeting index score for households with an elderly member increase to 83, exceeding both the fiscal year target and the baseline targeting index score. In FY 2013, the targeting index score for households with an elderly member increased to 84, before decreasing to 80 in FY 2014. In FY 2015, the targeting index score for households with an elderly member increased to 81, exceeding both the baseline targeting index score of 79 and the fiscal year target score of 80.

For measure 1B, LIHEAP consistently has targeted benefits to income eligible households with a young child—insofar as LIHEAP recipient households with a young child do make up a greater percentage of LIHEAP recipient households than such households make up of LIHEAP income eligible households. The FY 2004 through FY 2008 targeting index scores showed a decrease in targeting households with young children. However, in FY 2011, the targeting index increased to 122, but in FY 2012, it decreased to 114. In FY 2013, the targeting index score for households with a young child increased to 117, before decreasing to 112 in FY 2014. In FY 2015, the targeting index score for households with a young child decreased to 107, falling short of both the baseline targeting index score of 122 and the fiscal year target score of 112.

**Table IV-2a. LIHEAP reciprocity targeting performance measure 1A: Increase the reciprocity targeting index score of LIHEAP households having at least one member 60 years old or older (reported for FY 2003-FY 2015)<sup>6</sup>**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Result</b>
<b>FY 15</b>	80	81
<b>FY 14</b>	84	80
<b>FY 13</b>	85	84
<b>FY 12</b>	80	83
<b>FY 11</b>	75	78
<b>FY 10</b>	78	74
<b>FY 09</b>	96	76
<b>FY 08</b>	96	76
<b>FY 07</b>	94	78
<b>FY 06</b>	92	77
<b>FY 05</b>	84	79
<b>FY 04</b>	82	78
<b>FY 03</b>	Baseline	79

**Table IV-2b. LIHEAP reciprocity targeting performance measure 1A: Increase the reciprocity targeting index score of LIHEAP households having at least one member five years old or younger (reported for FY 2003-FY 2015)**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Result</b>
<b>FY 15</b>	112	107
<b>FY 14</b>	117	112
<b>FY 13</b>	116	117
<b>FY 12</b>	124	114
<b>FY 11</b>	110	122
<b>FY 10</b>	110	118
<b>FY 09</b>	122	117
<b>FY 08</b>	122	110
<b>FY 07</b>	122	110
<b>FY 06</b>	122	112
<b>FY 05</b>	122	113
<b>FY 04</b>	122	115
<b>FY 03</b>	Baseline	122

In June 2008, HHS established the LIHEAP Performance Measures Planning Work Group, consisting of state LIHEAP directors and HHS staff. The Work Group developed a logic model

<sup>6</sup> The state-reported data that enters into the calculation of these indices are current as of August 23, 2016.

which identifies the long-term goal of LIHEAP as providing LIHEAP recipients with continuous, safe, and affordable home energy service.

In April 2010, HHS established a follow-up group, the LIHEAP Performance Measures Implementation Work Group (PMIWG), consisting of state LIHEAP directors and HHS staff. The PMIWG works with stakeholders to establish uniform definitions relating to four new LIHEAP developmental performance measures, to evaluate grantees' ability to collect and report on new measures, and to utilize the performance data in managing their LIHEAP programs. Some of the PMIWG activities have included:

- Conducting a LIHEAP Performance Measures Needs Assessment Survey.
- Development of LIHEAP Process Guides on LIHEAP Performance Measurement Best Practices.
- Making annual presentations about LIHEAP Performance Measures at LIHEAP National Training conferences, National Energy Assistance Directors' Association (NEADA) meetings, and National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC) conferences.
- Communicating the latest developments of LIHEAP Performance Measures through periodic newsletters.
- Contributing to the development and enhancement of the LIHEAP Performance Measurement Website.
- Working with OCS to develop four new LIHEAP Developmental Performance Measures that were approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in November 2014.
- These four new LIHEAP Developmental Performance Measures include: 1) the benefit targeting index for high-burden LIHEAP recipient households; 2) the burden reduction targeting index for high-burden LIHEAP recipient households; 3) the number of LIHEAP recipient households for which LIHEAP restored home energy service; and 4) the number of LIHEAP recipient households for which LIHEAP prevented loss of home energy service.
- Serving as mentors on Performance Measures for other grantees that are working their way through the process.

The PMIWG will be active at least through September 2016. During the period from October 2014 through September 2015, the PMIWG met by teleconference ten times per year and in-person twice each year. Three subcommittees of the PMIWG were tasked with working on various aspects of Performance Management. These aspects included communication, system development, and training and technical assistance. In November 2014, HHS informed state LIHEAP grantees that it had received OMB clearance to initiate new data collection of state LIHEAP grantees regarding outcomes of assistance. HHS viewed the new performance data as developmental while state LIHEAP grantees build the capacity to collect the necessary data. HHS set as optional for FY 2015 the reporting of these new performance data during that initial developmental stage. In FY 2015, HHS provided initial technical assistance, particularly regarding vendor agreements and data exchanges needed to prepare state LIHEAP grantees for the new data collection.

## ***LIHEAP Reference Guide***

This section serves as a guide to the following information: LIHEAP information memoranda and LIHEAP action transmittals issued by the Division of Energy Assistance in FY 2015 and FY 2015 training and technical assistance (T&TA) activities.

### **FY 2015 LIHEAP Information Memoranda**

The following federal LIHEAP information memoranda (IM) were distributed to LIHEAP grantees in FY 2015:

<b>Memorandum No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject<sup>1</sup></b>
<a href="#"><u>IM-2015-01</u></a>	12/12/14	HHS Guidance on the Use of Social Security Numbers (SSNs) and Citizenship Status Verification for Assistance by LIHEAP Grantees' Programs
<a href="#"><u>IM-2015-02</u></a>	1/6/15	LIHEAP Compliance Review Monitoring Schedule: FY 2015
<a href="#"><u>IM-2015-03</u></a>	5/27/15	HHS Poverty Guidelines for Optional Use in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015 and Mandatory Use in FFY 2016 LIHEAP Programs
<a href="#"><u>IM-2015-04</u></a>	6/24/15	Applicability of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements to LIHEAP Awards

### **FY 2015 LIHEAP Action Transmittals**

The following federal LIHEAP action transmittals (AT) were distributed to LIHEAP grantees in FY 2015:

<b>Transmittal No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject<sup>2</sup></b>
<a href="#"><u>AT-2014-06</u></a> (AT-2015-01)	9/8/14	Correction Needed to LIHEAP Grantee Survey for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2013
<a href="#"><u>AT-2015-02</u></a>	1/5/15	LIHEAP Performance Data Form for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014
<a href="#"><u>AT-2015-03</u></a>	6/24/15	Model Plan Application for LIHEAP Funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 (All Applications due September 1, 2015)

<sup>1</sup> As presented here, the subject of each memorandum is that which was published under the SUBJECT heading of that document.

<sup>2</sup> As presented here, the subject of each transmittal is that which was published under the SUBJECT heading of that document. AT-2014-06 was issued at the end of FY 2014 and is presented on the HHS website under AT-2015-01.

## **Training and Technical Assistance Projects for FY 2015**

Section 2609A of the LIHEAP Act, 42 U.S.C. § 8628a, authorizes HHS to set aside up to \$300,000 each year for T&TA projects that may be awarded through grants, contracts, or jointly financed cooperative agreements with states, public agencies, and private nonprofit organizations. LIHEAP's FY 2015 appropriation increased this amount to \$2,988,000 and allowed HHS to award such projects to for-profit organizations. HHS obligated all but \$602.48 of these funds for the following activities:

- **Ongoing technical support resources for grantees:** For awarding an option year to the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) to continue operation of the LIHEAP Clearinghouse: \$312,790.52.
- **Training and new technical assistance for grantees:** For (1) awarding an option year to Brilljent, LLC to provide on-site training, group training, and additional technical assistance resources; and (2) entering into an interagency agreement with NIH to provide conference logistical support: \$408,724.85.
- **Technical support for OCS:** For awarding an option year to APPRISE Incorporated to provide data updates, report writing, as-needed technical assistance, and other technical support for LIHEAP's federal administrative office (the Office of Community Services (OCS)): \$328,551.12.
- **Monitoring of grantees:** For awarding a new contract to ICF Incorporated, L.L.C. to prioritize and take part in monitoring of grantees: \$808,769.26.
- **IT and general support:** For entering into inter-agency agreements that provide OCS with information technology support and general consulting support: \$514,955.00.
- **Official travel:** For sending HHS staff to (1) on-site compliance reviews in 13 states and 3 tribes, (2) LIHEAP-related conferences, and (3) other activities: \$70,925.79.
- **Training and Miscellaneous Office Expenses:** For (1) conference attendance fees; (2) document printing; (3) staff training; (4) personnel security charges; and (5) office supplies: \$87,815.83.
- **Web-Based Performance Management System:** For awarding an option year APPRISE Incorporated to maintain and enhance the system that collects, stores, and reports upon LIHEAP performance measurement data and other program-related data: \$454,865.15.

The remaining \$602.48 in funds automatically reverts back to the Treasury after the five-year expenditure period for such funds expires.