

	Department of Human Services Online Directives Information System	Index: Revised: Next Review:	POL3270 04/18/2019 04/18/2021
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SUBJECT: Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) POLICY

The policy of the Department of Human Services is to administer the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), to assist low income households, focusing on 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 state contracts with the Community Action Agencies to use selected criteria to determine a household's eligibility for assistance in meeting their home energy needs.

A. Authority https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/comp2/F097-035.html

B. References

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-109publ58/pdf/PLAW-109publ58.pdf>

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

C. Applicability

Any state, local, tribal governments, public or private non-profit agency or weatherization program under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1967, which meets state program and fiscal requirements.

D. Definitions

1. Low-Income: a household's gross income or income before any deductions or adjustments are made based on the defined federal poverty guidelines. Georgia used 60% of the State Median Income to determine eligibility.
2. Households: those related, and/or unrelated individuals who are living together as one economic unit for whom residential energy is customarily purchased in common or who make in-designated payments for residential energy in the form of rent.
3. Home Energy: the type of fuel consumption used for heating or cooling

residential dwellings.

4. Community Action Agencies: private, non-profit agencies, which administer a full range of services to economically disadvantaged persons.

E. Responsibilities

The Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services, Office of Family Independence is responsible for issuing and updating the policies and procedures to implement LIHEAP. Interested individuals from the community are invited to review and comment of the annual programmatic state plan.

F. Evaluation

The outcomes of this directive are evaluated by the Office of Family Independence based on required reporting under the LIHEAP. The data collected will be used to determine how the program impacted the lives of low-income households and how the program can find better ways to service the citizens of Georgia.