

**The Low-Income Home Energy
Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**

Pennsylvania Advocates Manual
2014-2015 Edition

*Produced by the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project
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Preface

We are pleased to provide you with the 2014-2015 electronic edition of *The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Pennsylvania Advocates Manual*. It has been developed and produced by the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project (PULP) for use by members of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network and others who assist low-income individuals. We hope that you find it to be of value to you and the members of your staff. Please feel free to copy it as needed, to circulate it to those most likely to make use of it, and to maintain a copy in your reference library.

The 2014-2015 Manual has been updated and is different from earlier editions circulated in prior years. Please replace any older version. This year's edition has been edited to contain program changes, current forms, references, website links, additional issues and advocacy suggestions. Citations are provided in the footnotes. Contact lists and forms are provided in the Appendices.

Although an essential program, the different aspects and components of LIHEAP change from year to year and are therefore not always well understood by advocates and by applicants. Many eligible consumers do not apply, and those who do often receive less than their full potential benefits. This Manual is intended to be a working reference to aid in providing understanding of and access to the benefits provided by Pennsylvania's LIHEAP. We value and request your input regarding the success of the Manual in meeting your needs and welcome any suggestions for modification.

PULP thanks Mingjie Gan, a former MLK intern and current student at The Dickinson Law School, The Pennsylvania State University, for her assistance in reviewing, editing, and updating the 2014-2015 Manual.

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Summary of Updates and Changes for the 2014-2015 LIHEAP Program Year¹

2014-2015 LIHEAP Program In Brief

- **Program Dates:**

- Cash opens Nov. 3, 2014 closes April 3, 2015;
- Crisis opens Nov. 3, 2014 closes April 3, 2015;
- Crisis Interface/WAP opens Nov. 3, 2014 closes April 3, 2015;

- DPW may extend or shorten program dates depending on availability of funds.

- **Eligibility:** Eligibility is set at 150% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines for Cash and Crisis Program, and at 200% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines for WAP Program:

2014-2015 LIHEAP Household Income Limits

Household Size	150% FPL for Cash & Crisis
1	\$ 17,505
2	\$ 23,595
3	\$ 29,685
4	\$ 35,775
5	\$ 41,865
6	\$ 47,955
7	\$ 54,045
8	\$ 60,135
9	\$ 66,225
10	\$ 77,595
For each additional person add	\$ 6,090

- **Grant Amounts:**

- Minimum Cash grant will be \$100.
- Maximum Cash grant will be \$1,000.
- Minimum Crisis grant will be \$25.
- Maximum Crisis grant will be \$500.

There may be modifications made during the 2014-2015 LIHEAP program year. Please be alert for any changes.

New, Aspects of LIHEAP in 2014-2015

- **DPW will no longer operate a Crisis Exception Program.** Instead, the regular crisis component will begin on November 3, 2014, concurrent with the LIHEAP cash program open date and end on April 3, 2015.

- **The Heat and Eat Initiative** will be revised to remain in compliance with the change in regulations in the Agricultural Act of 2014 (the Farm Bill). The amount of heating assistance issued to SNAP households who have not been approved for LIHEAP in the program year will increase in accordance with the new federal guidelines.

Clarifications in 2013-2014 that Continue to Require Attention

- **Public utilities that operate Customer Assistance Program (CAPs) are required to apply the LIHEAP cash component benefits only to the customer’s monthly ‘Asked to Pay’ amount.** No LIHEAP funds may be applied to CAP customer’s pre-program arrearages or actual usage amounts. **Appendix B. §601.45. Application of Benefits** reinstates prior DPW policy and makes no distinction between a Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIP or PIPP) CAP program or a Rate Discount CAP program. DPW indicates that the purpose of LIHEAP is to help low income households meet their home heating needs. The LIHEAP Federal statute, regulations and Pennsylvania’s approved state plan require that LIHEAP funds be applied in full to the account of those households determined LIHEAP eligible. Therefore, utility companies must apply LIHEAP cash grants only to the “Asked to Pay” amount the CAP customer is required to pay regardless of whether or not they operate based on a Percent of Income Payment Plan, known as either a PIP or PIPP, or rate discount model. A fuller discussion of this issue is found at pages 20- 22 of this Manual.

- **A life-threatening Crisis must continue to be resolved within 18 hours;** however, while *this must be a documented medical emergency.* See §601.4. DPW has not provided guidance as to how or if this additional language will affect Crisis applicants with a life-

threatening crisis situation. Please advise PULP if you have a client who has been negatively affected.

- **Furnace replacement** is now specifically designated as an appropriate activity within the Crisis Interface Program. See the Final State Plan, Department Of Public Welfare and Department Of Community and Economic Development Crisis Interface Project at page ix.
- However, also see change to Crisis Interface Policy at C-2 of the State Plan which states **if the furnace has not been operating within past two heating seasons from the date of application, the unit will be ineligible for Crisis Interface Services.** DCED indicates that a furnace that has not been working for that long of a period of time cannot be considered to be a weather-related emergency. The applicant must provide proof of the home heating emergency.

The 2014-2015 LIHEAP Application Form (PWEA 1) Has Been Modified:

- **A new question was added asking the applicant to provide the name and account number of their electric company. This information is being gathered to meet new federal reporting requirements.**
 - See question 10 on the LIHEAP application.
- **Language in the Certification section was added to inform the applicant that their signature gives the Department of Public Welfare permission to share and receive information from their energy supplier regarding their annual energy consumption or cost and billing information.**

LIHEAP: PA Advocates Manual
2014-2015 Edition
Prepared by the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project

Introduction

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Pennsylvania Advocates Manual is produced by the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project (PULP) for members of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network and others who assist low-income individuals. It is not intended to be a substitute for direct legal advice in individual cases, but it is intended to be used as a general reference guide. Citations are provided in the footnotes. References and a sampling of forms are provided in the Appendices. Website references can be found throughout. The authors welcome receiving your questions, as well as your comments.

LIHEAP in Brief

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides low-income households with assistance to help pay the costs of home energy consumption. In Pennsylvania, LIHEAP supplements are intended primarily to assist with paying the cost of heating a residence during the cold weather months.²

LIHEAP is funded by the Federal government but administered by the states. In Pennsylvania, the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) is charged with administering the LIHEAP program through local County Assistance Offices and other agencies.

In 2014-2015 LIHEAP assistance may take three different forms. A particular household may be entitled to receive one or more of the different forms of assistance. It is therefore essential to review and analyze each household situation:

- **Cash Component:** a single grant,³ available one time each year, to assist a household in meeting heating costs. It is paid directly to either a heating fuel vendor/utility company or to an individual. The amount of the LIHEAP Cash grant provided to each household may differ. The grant amount is based on a set formula discussed below. This year, a household may apply for the LIHEAP Cash component from November 3, 2014-April 3, 2015. The grant amount will range from \$100 to a maximum of \$1000.
- **Crisis Component:** In 2014-2015, up to \$500 is available to help qualified households resolve a home heating crisis caused by an actual or imminent lack of fuel or utility termination, a problem with a heating system (i.e., furnace), or a weather-related event. Any household requiring less than \$25 to resolve a home heating emergency will not be eligible to receive a Crisis grant.

² At times, it has been extended to assist with summer cooling needs.

³ Note, however, that at times, supplemental payments to the Cash grant have been issued by DPW. This usually occurs if additional funding is received after the program has begun or there are funds available at the conclusion of the program.

- **Crisis Interface/Weatherization Assistance Component:**⁴ repair or replacement of the heating system or furnace is provided to those with a heating system breakdown. Traditional weatherization and conservation services may supplement the repairs.

The same application form may be used to apply for each of the LIHEAP components.

An individual may be able to designate a different vendor to receive different types of grant payments; for example, a Cash grant may be designated to an oil vendor and a Crisis grant to the electricity provider.

An individual may receive more than one Crisis benefit during the 2014-2015 program year, subject to the minimum and maximum amounts allowed and the amount of available Federal funding.

LIHEAP is available to both renters and homeowners. However, renters who pay for heat for their residence indirectly (i.e., not directly to a fuel vendor or utility) as a part of rent will receive only 50% of the Cash benefit for which they would otherwise be eligible. Eligible households may reapply for and receive Cash and Crisis assistance each program year. LIHEAP is not a public assistance program. There will be no lien attached to a home as a result of receiving any LIHEAP assistance.

DPW maintains a Heating Assistance/LIHEAP website. It is located at:

<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/foradults/heatingassistanceliheap/index.htm>

DPW is charged with publishing annually a LIHEAP State Plan with program guidelines and parameters, such as program opening and closing dates, funding levels, and eligibility criteria. A Proposed State Plan is published during the summer months and is subject to public comments and public hearings in which anyone may participate. After comments are received and reviewed, DPW publishes a Final State Plan that governs the LIHEAP operation for that program year. The LIHEAP rules for that year are found in Appendix B of the Final Plan. Information regarding Crisis Interface and the Weatherization Assistance Program may be found in Appendix C of the Final Plan. The current Final Plan is found online at: . .

DPW also provides a LIHEAP Policy Handbook for its caseworkers. The Handbook includes Operations Memoranda which are issued periodically and which indicate the most recent LIHEAP procedures and policies. The most recent publicly available Handbook is found online at: <http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/manuals/bop/le/index.htm>.

The 2014-2015 Cash grant benefit tables, which indicate the amount of the Cash grant to which each household is entitled, may be found online at: [LIHEAP Benefit Amount Table](#)

A LIHEAP application may be completed online through the COMPASS program at www.compass.state.pa.us, or a paper application may be mailed or hand delivered to the local County Assistance Office.

⁴ This component is the only component not administered completely within DPW. DPW makes the Crisis eligibility determination, but the Department of Community and Economic Development administers the repair and replacement segment.

The English version paper application may be downloaded from the DPW website at: [English-Energy Assistance](#)

The Spanish version may be downloaded at [Spanish-Energy Assistance Application](#)

The addresses and phone numbers of local County Assistance Offices may be accessed online at: [local county assistance office](#) .

Legal Authority

LIHEAP is a Federal block grant program. It is authorized by the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act (Pub. L. 97- 35, 42 U.S.C.A. §§8621-8629) as amended by the Human Services Reauthorization Act (Pub. L. 98-558, 98 Stat. 2878), the Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1986 (Pub. L. 99-425, 100 Stat. 966), the Augustus F. Hawkins Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-501), the National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act of 1993 (Pub. L. 103-43), the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Amendments of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-252), the Coats Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-285), and the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 109-58).⁵

While Federal law forms the legislative basis for the LIHEAP program, the annual Final State Plan (hereinafter, “the Plan”) contains the policies that govern implementation of the program each year. The Plan is broken into several subsections: Introduction, LIHEAP Federal Funding, Public Comment, Program Parameters, Department of Public Welfare and Department of Community and Economic Development Crisis Interface Project, Assurances, and three appendices.

“Appendix B – Determination of Eligibility for LIHEAP Cash and Crisis Benefits” is the key section of the Plan to which the advocate should turn because it provides guidelines for the Cash and Crisis components, which are the components most usually accessed.

“Appendix C- Weatherization Assistance Program” contains information concerning both the Crisis Interface Program as well as the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) administered weatherization programs.

Administration

DPW administers LIHEAP in Pennsylvania. DPW uses the County Assistance Offices (CAOs) as the administering agency for the Cash grant.⁶ In some cases, DPW coordinates the activities of several counties and LIHEAP applications are processed by the CAO in another county. DPW uses several different agencies to assist in the delivery of the Crisis program. These agencies include CAOs, community action agencies, the Department of Community and Economic Development, and other local organizations. The Crisis Interface/Weatherization Assistance component is administered jointly by DPW and the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). DPW makes the Crisis eligibility determination, and DCED administers

⁵ Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program 2015 Final State Plan at § 601.1.

⁶ Id. at § 601.5.

the heating system repairs, furnace replacements where warranted, and any appropriate weatherization treatments.⁷

County staff members who deal with the administration of LIHEAP may not always be fully aware of the details of the current year’s program because LIHEAP is only one of many programs implemented through the CAOs; it is available only part of the year; and its operations and guidelines are often modified within the course of a single year. In addition, many of the CAOs hire temporary energy assistance workers to staff the LIHEAP program, and these workers may just be becoming familiar with program guidelines as the first applicants enter the system. It is therefore not unusual for applicants to experience delays in the processing of their Cash grant applications beyond the mandated 30 day period. Although DPW has modified its training and monitoring process this year in order to expedite the processing of applications, advocates would be wise to encourage individuals to apply for Cash grants early in order to reduce any negative effect on applicants as a result of processing delays.

The final federal 2014-2015 LIHEAP budget appropriation was unknown during the period the State LIHEAP Plan was finalized and is not expected to be known until sometime in 2015, after the program has opened. It is presently being based upon a Congressional continuing resolution. It is therefore not unusual for federal LIHEAP funding amounts to change. In response to these funding changes, it is not unusual for DPW or the Governor to announce late in the program year that additional staff time is being allocated to processing applications, that program closing dates are extended, or that supplemental grants will be provided.

An appeal process is available for individuals who are aggrieved. A Fair Hearing can be requested through the local LIHEAP office. Individuals have 30 days to file an appeal with their local welfare office in a process that is further detailed in the “Appeals” section of this manual.

Timetable

LIHEAP generally opens in November and closes toward the end of March or beginning of April. However, since exact opening and closing dates change between program years, it is important for the advocate to check the annual Final State Plan to know the timetable for that year.⁸ In addition, because the length of the program is dependent on the availability of funds as the program year progresses, it is possible for DPW to shorten or extend the closing date.⁹ In recent years, including 2013, DPW has announced that it will be extending the program closing date several weeks into April.

In 2014-2015, DPW proposes to open both the Cash and Crisis component on November 3, 2014 with a closing date of April 3, 2015. DPW will no longer operate a Crisis Exception Program.¹⁰ The Crisis Interface program is scheduled to be open from November 3, 2014 until April 3, 2015.¹¹

⁷ Id. at pg. ix; also see id. at Appendix C.

⁸ Id. at § 601.6(a).

⁹ Id. at § 601.6(b).

¹⁰ Id. at pg. vi.

¹¹ Id at pg. ii.

General Eligibility

In order to qualify for and receive Cash or Crisis benefits, an individual must meet several eligibility requirements relating to household income, home heating responsibility, residency, and non-citizen status. Crisis eligibility also requires that there be an actual or imminent home heating emergency that will be resolved through receipt of those grants. (For details regarding the specific eligibility requirements for Crisis grants, see 2015 Final State Plan, Appendix B, § 601.32.)

Household Income

Federal law allows states to set the income eligibility level for LIHEAP participation at no more than 60% of the state median income and no less than 110% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. For 2014-2015, Pennsylvania has set the income eligibility level for both Cash and Crisis at 150% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines.¹²

Income Calculation

To determine income eligibility levels for the 2014-2015 LIHEAP program year, advocates are referred to Appendix A of this Manual or to [DPW eligibility charts](#).

The **applicant** is given the discretion to decide how gross annual income is calculated.¹³

Applicants may choose to use their income from the 12 months or the calendar month immediately prior to the filing of the application. These amounts are converted to a yearly figure – gross annual income - and used to determine both a household’s eligibility and the Cash grant amount.¹⁴ Advocates should therefore help the applicant determine which of the time frames (12 months or past calendar month) yields the income level most advantageous for the household. **In some cases, the selection of the time frame to be used, as well as the timing of the Cash grant application, may help lead to a determination of eligibility and may lead to significantly different benefit amounts.**¹⁵ Income for household members who receive SNAP, Cash, or Medical benefits from DPW will be annualized based on the gross amount on DPW’s Client Information System.¹⁶

To determine the income level for an applicant household, the administering agency includes the gross annual income from **all** of the following people:

- all household members, regardless of relationship¹⁷,

¹² Id. at § 601.31(1).

¹³ Id. at § 601.83(a).

¹⁴ Id.

¹⁵ The frequent use by DPW of supplemental payments may be also a consideration in the timing of an application. Although supplements are not certain to be provided in any given year, it has been a frequent practice. These supplements are generally provided to “vulnerable households” defined in §601.3 as households containing at least one member who is elderly (age 60 or over), disabled, or age five and under. Since the age of the household member is determined by age at the time the LIHEAP application is submitted, if all other factors are equal, it may be beneficial to wait to submit the application after a household member reaches 60, or before the youngest child reaches age 6.

¹⁶ Id.

¹⁷ Same gender marriage became legal in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on May 20, 2014, when a decision rendered by the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania struck down Pennsylvania’s 1996 law banning the recognition of same gender marriage, as unconstitutional. According to the Operations Memorandum (#14-10-02) dated on October 9, 2014, LIHEAP policy has not changed regarding mandatory

- a roomer related by blood, marriage, or adoption to a household member,
- a person living with the applicant who, as a member of another household, has already received a LIHEAP Cash or Crisis grant during the present program year.¹⁸

Gross income is defined as the total earned and unearned income of the household, including:

- employee earnings,
 - profit from self-employment,
 - income from roomers, boarders or apartment renters, and
 - unearned income.¹⁹
- Each of these categories of earnings has multiple subcategories; see, for example, unearned income at Section 601.82(4) (i)-(xi). DPW has specifically stated that funds withdrawn from Individual Retirement Accounts, Certificates of Deposit and proceeds from the sale of stock certificates are to be counted as unearned income.²⁰

Many income sources, such as educational assistance, food stamps, and cash or in-kind heating assistance from public or private agencies, are **excluded** from the calculation of household income for the purposes of establishing eligibility for LIHEAP.²¹ DPW has clarified that *all* students, not just undergraduate students, are able to exclude educational assistance from scholarships, grants and loans as income.

Home Heating Responsibility

Applicants must have a home heating responsibility to receive LIHEAP. Persons deemed to have home heating responsibility include:

- Homeowners or renters (including subsidized housing tenants) who pay for home heating fuel or utility service directly to a vendor. (If the bill is paid by someone outside the household because the household has zero/minimal income, the household is still considered to have a heating responsibility and therefore eligible to receive LIHEAP.)²²
- Renters who pay for heat indirectly for their residence as a part of rent.²³

household members. Spouses are mandatory household members and must be included in the same LIHEAP household. LIHEAP can and will utilize the same process as Cash Assistance if LIHEAP and Cash are requested. Eligibility determinations for LIHEAP should not be affected by the use of the Cash same gender process. In addition, according to the Operations Memorandum (#14-10-02), Compass does not currently recognize same gender marriage. Until system changes are made, the worker may need to reach out the applicant for clarification on relationship and joint tax filing status

¹⁸ Id. at § 601.81.

¹⁹ Id. at § 601.82.

²⁰ Id.

²¹ Id. at § 601.84(1)-(22).

²² Id. at § 601.31(2)(i)(A).

²³ Id. at § 601.31(2)(i)(B). Households that are renting with heat included and have a *specific* portion of their rent used for their heating costs are *also considered to have a heating responsibility* and are therefore eligible for

- Roomers²⁴ who pay for their lodging in either a commercial establishment or in a private home which is their permanent and primary home.²⁵

To establish home heating responsibility for a Cash grant, the household must show responsibility for paying for the main source of heat either directly to a vendor or to a landlord as a part of rent.²⁶ Note, however, that the household can choose to have the cash grant issued to a secondary heating source in instances where the secondary fuel is needed to run the main heating source or when the main heating source is inoperable.²⁷

To establish home heating responsibility for Crisis, the household must establish the responsibility of paying for either its main *or* secondary source of heat either directly to a vendor or indirectly to a landlord as a part of rent.²⁸ For an important discussion of main vs. secondary fuel types, please see the Special Issues section of this manual.

DPW does not consider the following housing situations to represent a home heating responsibility, and they are, therefore, not a basis to receive LIHEAP:

- Renters are ineligible if their rental charge includes an undesignated amount for heat AND is based on a fixed percentage of their income or on their source of income. This would apply to subsidized-housing tenants.²⁹
- A roomer is ineligible if the charge for room/room & board includes an undesignated amount for the main fuel AND is based on a fixed percentage of their income or on their source of income.³⁰
- A household is ineligible if some other person or agency is *always* responsible for the heating bill (for example, people in subsidized housing who have the bill paid by the housing agency; students).³¹ However if the bill is paid by someone outside the household because the household has zero/minimal income, the household is still considered to have a heating responsibility and therefore eligible to receive LIHEAP.³²

Residency

Household members must permanently reside in Pennsylvania.³³

benefits. DPW states in OPS MEMO 13-10-01 that that this is not a change from previous policy but simply an attempt to reduce confusion: if a LIHEAP applicant pays for heat as a designated or undesignated portion of the rent - provided the rent is not based on a fixed percentage of their income - they are considered to have a heating responsibility.

²⁴ A roomer is defined as “an individual whose payment for lodging in a room includes heat and may include a private bathroom or one of the following: (i) Board. (ii) Kitchen or bathroom privileges on a shared basis. (iii) Light housekeeping facilities.” 2015 Final State Plan at § 601.3.

²⁵ Id. at § 601.31(2)(i)(C).

²⁶ Id. at § 601.31(2).

²⁷ Id. at § 601.41(4)

²⁸ Id. at § 601.31(2).

²⁹ Id. at § 601.31(2)(i)(B).

³⁰ Id. at § 601.31(2)(i)(C).

³¹ Id. at § 601.31(2)(i)(A).

³² Id.

³³ Id. at § 601.31(3).

Temporary Living Arrangements

Individuals in a temporary living arrangement, such as a visit, vacation or education generally do not qualify for eligibility. However, individuals who have temporarily left their permanent residence as a result of a home heating crisis *are* eligible for a grant for their permanent residence.³⁴ People living in institutions, dormitories, fraternity or sorority houses, or boarding homes are ineligible.³⁵ Still, college students can nonetheless apply and must not be denied LIHEAP eligibility solely on the basis of the temporary living arrangement section of the LIHEAP State Plan.³⁶ College students with year-round leases are considered permanent residents of the county where they go to school and can qualify for LIHEAP. College students with leases for the school year only also can qualify for LIHEAP in the county where they go to school. A rule of thumb is that a temporary living arrangement is intended to last only for a few days or weeks, while a permanent living arrangement may last months or years.³⁷

Recreational Vehicles

Persons living in recreational vehicles (Campers and RVs) are ineligible for LIHEAP unless they provide verification that they reside in a campground or other licensed facility year-round and are responsible for heating costs.³⁸ However, in specific situations, DPW has found individuals who are living in Campers and RVs that are permanently affixed to the property to be eligible.

Operators of a Licensed Business

Persons operating a licensed business out of the LIHEAP household's residence are ineligible for LIHEAP if they use the home's utilities as a deduction on their business' tax return.³⁹ However, although not in the State Plan, in 2011, DPW issued a policy clarification that it will apply this exclusion only if more than 50% of the home is attributed to the business use. DPW will use line 30 of Schedule C of IRS Form 1040 (Profit or Loss From Business) and block 7 of IRS Form 8829 (Expenses for Business Use of Your Home) to determine LIHEAP eligibility for household business owners.⁴⁰

Fleeing Felon

Persons who are currently incarcerated or fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody or confinement after a felony conviction (or high misdemeanor in New Jersey) are ineligible for LIHEAP.⁴¹ There is an open question as to whether it is DPW's burden to demonstrate that the person is actually "fleeing." Advocates should carefully scrutinize the facts and, if the situation merits it, file an appeal if the individual in question, while having an outstanding warrant, was not fleeing to avoid prosecution.

³⁴ Id. at § 601.105.

³⁵ Id. at § 601.31(2)(ii).

³⁶ See LIHEAP Handbook Section 601.41 Eligible Students.

³⁷ See LIHEAP Handbook Section 601.42 Ineligible Students.

³⁸ Id. at §601.31(2) (iii).

³⁹ Id. at §601.31(2)(iv).

⁴⁰ Policy Clarification PLA15989605 dated 11/7/11.

⁴¹ Id. at §601.31(2)(v).

Operation of Heating Appliance

A household is ineligible for LIHEAP if the heating appliance isn't installed and operating based on the manufacturer's specifications or current code requirements, whichever⁴² is more stringent, and isn't following all applicable building and fire codes.

Non-Citizen Status

Lawfully admitted non-citizens are eligible to receive LIHEAP no matter when they arrived in the United States so long as they meet LIHEAP eligibility requirements.⁴³ The Plan lists eight categories of non-citizens "qualified" for LIHEAP.⁴⁴

Social Security Numbers

- One does not need a Social Security number to be eligible for LIHEAP. However, if a Social Security number is not provided, an Energy Assistance Affidavit, printed on the LIHEAP application in the Certification section must be completed for each member of the household who is one year of age or older. An Energy Assistance Affidavit is not required for children under the age of one. Advocates should be aware that in the Certification section on page 3 of the 2014-2015 the Energy Assistance Affidavit has been more prominently highlighted, however the instructions are still somewhat confusing. Please note that if a member of the household who is one year of age or older does not have a social security number the Energy Affidavit should be used in order to apply for LIHEAP benefits.

Applications

In order to qualify for receipt of LIHEAP, an individual must first complete and submit an application. All households that received a LIHEAP grant in 2013-2014 should have had either an application or a postcard informing them of how to apply on-line mailed to their home in October. As of November 3, 2014, applications are available upon request from different sources in the community, such as CAOs, a LIHEAP administering agency, utility companies, or online at DPW's website.⁴⁵ An individual also may apply online at DPW's COMPASS website.⁴⁶ This year, DPW is strongly encouraging applicants to apply online through COMPASS.

The same form may be used to apply for each of the LIHEAP components.

An individual may need assistance to complete the application. Homebound individuals have the right to request that LIHEAP staff mail an application to them at their home and may also request help in filling out the form.⁴⁷

⁴² Id. at §601.31(2)(vi).

⁴³ Id. at § 601.31(4).

⁴⁴ Id. at § 601.31(4)(i-viii).

⁴⁵ See [LIHEAP Brochure - English](#), [LIHEAP Brochure-Español](#)

⁴⁶ See www.compass.state.pa.us

⁴⁷ 2015 Final State Plan at § 601.24.

Note that because the income eligibility requirements for LIHEAP may differ from year to year and because a household may have experienced changes (such as in income level or size), receipt of an application or postcard in the mail does not imply or indicate current eligibility.

Timing of Application and DPW Response

The date of application is the date the administering agency receives the application.⁴⁸ Where an individual is assisted by a utility, community group, or another party in filling out and forwarding an application, the formal date of application is only when the local CAO (the administering agency) receives the application.

DPW has indicated that all households submitting a LIHEAP Cash application in 2014-2015 will receive a system generated notice informing them that their application has been received. This notice will be triggered once the application has been data entered.

The CAO must provide the applicant with a written determination within 30 days of receiving a complete application for a Cash grant.⁴⁹ If the Cash grant application is deemed incomplete, the administering agency must send the applicant a notice indicating what information is missing within 10 *working days* of receipt.⁵⁰ The applicant will then have 15 *days* from the date of that notice to return the missing information in order to avoid rejection of the application.⁵¹

Although significant Cash grant processing delays have occurred in recent years, DPW's obligation to provide a determination of eligibility within 30 days of receiving a completed application continues to exist. If county offices are routinely failing to comply with this deadline, please alert PULP so that we can bring it to the attention of DPW.

Documentation vs. Verification

DPW uses two different classifications for information submitted in association with LIHEAP: “verification” and “documentation.” “Verification” is defined to include “any form of convincing information, including oral statements or documentation.”⁵² “Documentation” is defined to include “written or printed evidence, such as fuel bills, rent receipts, or pay stubs, which is needed to determine LIHEAP eligibility and the type and amount of the LIHEAP benefit.”⁵³

Documenting Income

Applicants are required to **document** the amount and source of the income for household members and also for anyone in the household who received LIHEAP benefits during the program year as a member of another household.⁵⁴

⁴⁸ Id. at § 601.21(3).

⁴⁹ Id. at § 601.22.

⁵⁰ Id. at § 601.23.

⁵¹ Id.

⁵² Id. at § 601.101(1).

⁵³ Id. at § 601.101(2).

⁵⁴ Id. at § 601.102(a).

If an applicant claims little or no income for the household, the applicant will be required to provide **evidence** explaining how the household is meeting its financial obligations.⁵⁵ While the Plan does not specify the form of this evidence, the 2014-2015 Application for LIHEAP does require applicants who have had no income for the past month or have income that is less than the cost of monthly basic living needs (food, shelter, personal items, etc.) to tell DPW in writing how they are paying for such needs; DPW generally employs a high level of scrutiny to applications of individuals who assert that they have no income.

Documenting Heating Responsibility

Cash grant applicants must **document** their responsibility for the main type of fuel for the household.⁵⁶ For a household that pays a vendor directly, this responsibility may be satisfied through submission of a fuel bill or receipt issued within the two months prior to the date of the LIHEAP application.⁵⁷ In addition, submission of receipts from vendors for fuel purchased since January, 2014, will also be acceptable. If a household chooses to have a benefit paid to the vendor of a secondary fuel type, then the household must document its responsibility for both the primary and secondary fuel types.⁵⁸

An applicant for a Crisis grant must prove payment responsibility for either the primary or secondary source of heat.⁵⁹ If, as a result of a prior service termination, the individual does not have a recent bill or receipt, the intended vendor must supply documentation that indicates service will be activated upon a determination of LIHEAP eligibility.⁶⁰

For households that pay for heat indirectly as an undesignated part of their rent, verification or documentation from the landlord or rental agent will establish home heating responsibility.⁶¹ Oral verification by the landlord is sufficient to meet this burden.

In certain situations, proof of home heating responsibility by an applicant for either a Cash or Crisis benefit may be demonstrated, even though the billing payment responsibility is in a name other than the applicant's.⁶² When situations arise, such as those involving the death of the person billed or domestic violence safety concerns, the applicant must then provide written or printed information that he/she lives at the residence address. For example, if the LIHEAP applicant continues to have the utility bill in the name of her deceased spouse, she may then provide a driver's license documenting that she resides at the residence.⁶³

Documenting Proof of Residence

An applicant temporarily living away from his or her actual residence can still apply for LIHEAP by providing some documentation of the emergency or extenuating circumstances

⁵⁵ Id. at § 601.103.

⁵⁶ Id. at § 601.104(a).

⁵⁷ Id.

⁵⁸ Id.

⁵⁹ Id at § 601.104(b).

⁶⁰ Id.

⁶¹ Id at § 601.104(c).

⁶² Id. at § 601.104(d).

⁶³ Id.

that gave rise to the need to live elsewhere.⁶⁴ The CAO is required, upon request, to assist in providing appropriate documentation for applicants in these situations.⁶⁵

Documenting a Crisis

It is the applicant's responsibility to prove that there is a home heating crisis.⁶⁶ Acceptable forms of proof include:

- A utility termination notice or verification of a scheduled termination,
- Verification that utility service has already been terminated, or
- A statement from the applicant that the household's deliverable fuel supply is depleted or will last less than 15 days.

The determination of whether a crisis exists is specific to the particular fact situation. For example:

- A termination notice is generally sufficient proof to document a crisis for receipt of a Crisis grant.⁶⁷ *However*, because regulated utility companies cannot terminate service to LIHEAP income-eligible households during the Winter Moratorium (December 1 through March 31), a termination notice issued by a regulated utility company intended to be effective during the Winter Moratorium is not, by itself, accepted by DPW as proof of a home heating emergency.⁶⁸ *However*, in past years, when funding was available, DPW made the determination that shut-off notices dated February 1 or later that are issued by regulated utilities will be honored as proof of a crisis.
- Subsidized housing tenants are ineligible for a Crisis grant if their rental charge includes an undesignated amount for heat AND is based on a fixed percentage of their income. *However*, should the household become responsible for any payments directly to a vendor, the household is then potentially eligible once they document their heating responsibility.⁶⁹

Miscellaneous Documentation

There are a number of miscellaneous situations an advocate may be required to address:

- Although a Social Security number is not required for eligibility, it is often requested by regulated vendors in order to match the grant to the appropriate account. An applicant who does not have a Social Security number or refuses to disclose it may complete an Energy Assistance Affidavit.⁷⁰ The Energy Assistance Affidavit is printed in the certification section of the application.
- Official documentation from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is generally sufficient to establish lawfully admitted non-citizen status.⁷¹ A chart of acceptable documents for proving eligible non-citizen status is provided in the Plan.⁷²

⁶⁴ Id. at § 601.105.

⁶⁵ Id.

⁶⁶ Id. at § 601.108.

⁶⁷ Id. at § 601.62(2)(ii); 66 Pa.C.S. § 1406(g).

⁶⁸ Id. at § 601.108.

⁶⁹ Id. at § 601.31(2)(i)(B).

⁷⁰ Id. at § 601.106.

⁷¹ Id. at § 601.109.

Cash Component

The Cash grant component is available to all eligible individuals with a home heating responsibility. An individual may be a renter or an owner and may use *any* type of fuel to provide heat to the residence: gas, oil, electric, wood, propane, etc. The purpose of the Cash grant is to assist low-income households with their financial home heating burden. Therefore, to receive a Cash grant an individual:

- Need **not** be threatened with termination of service;
- Need **not** have an outstanding bill or be in debt to a utility or energy vendor; and
- Need **not** have a direct relationship with a utility or energy vendor.

Grants are calculated based upon a number of household characteristics that impact affordability⁷³:

- Household size,
- Household income,
- Heating Region, and
- Primary (or main) Fuel Type.

Based upon these household characteristics, Cash grants for 2014-2015 will be issued in amounts ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 per household. To consult the [Benefit Amount Table](#) and determine the size of the Cash grant a household may be awarded.

Please note: The Benefit Amount Table only includes income levels up through \$22,999. However, households with incomes above \$22,999 may still be eligible, depending on household size. See Appendix A of this Manual for 2014-2015 PA LIHEAP Income Guidelines.

Although each household is eligible for only one Cash grant per program year,⁷⁴ it is possible that when funding is available, DPW will issue one or more supplemental Cash payments to households without the need for those households to file another application. Therefore, even households initially eligible for the minimum Cash grant of \$100 may receive benefits in far greater amounts as a result of these supplemental payments.

If the household pays for fuel directly, then DPW will pay grants to the fuel vendor/utility on behalf of the household.⁷⁵ DPW pays the grant directly to the applicant in the following situations: if the household pays for heat as an undesignated part of rent, the fuel vendor refuses to participate in the program or has been removed from the list of participating vendors, the heating bill is in the name of a non-household members, the bills is paid to a third party such as in a master-metering situation, or the applicant is a roomer.⁷⁶

⁷² Id. at pg. B-25.

⁷³ Id. at § 601.41(a)(1-4).

⁷⁴ Id. at § 601.43.

⁷⁵ Id. at § 601.44(a).

⁷⁶ Id. at § 601.44 (b).

Entities such as landlords, rental agents, housing authorities, or hotel or rooming house managers are not eligible to receive a direct vendor payment.⁷⁷ Thus, an unscrupulous landlord is not able to intercept or coerce a LIHEAP grant from a tenant.

With the advent of competition in electric and natural gas utility service, some households may be purchasing their energy generation from an entity other than their local regulated distribution company. These competitive gas, electric suppliers, or marketers are currently not eligible to be registered LIHEAP vendors and are therefore ineligible to receive a direct vendor payment.⁷⁸

The Crediting of a Cash Grant to a CAP Customer's Account

Background

The purpose of LIHEAP is to help low-income households meet their home heating needs. The LIHEAP Federal statute, regulations and Pennsylvania's approved state Plan require that LIHEAP funds be applied in full to the account of those households determined LIHEAP eligible. The Department of Welfare administers LIHEAP. In addition, each large regulated electric and natural gas distribution company in Pennsylvania is required to provide a Customer Assistance Program (CAP) for the low-income population within its service territory.⁷⁹ CAPs generally serve utility payment troubled individuals with household incomes similar to those of LIHEAP eligible households, 150% of the poverty level and below. These programs are administered by individual companies under the oversight of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. One of their purposes is to protect consumers' health and safety by helping low-income customers maintain affordable utility service.⁸⁰ In CAP, monthly utility bills are generally significantly lower. This is accomplished by providing a reduced rate through either a Percentage of Income Payment Program (PIPP or PIP), a rate discount, or some other PUC approved model. Entry into CAP will also generally freeze any collection activity of pre-program arrears and enable their eventual forgiveness.

Generally, companies provide unique names for their CAP program, and each is administered somewhat differently. Some examples of this diversity may be found in comparing PPL's OnTrack, PGW's Customer Responsibility Program (CRP), NFG's Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA), and PECO's CAP Rate programs.

The requirements of LIHEAP and CAP programs often intersect. For example, CAP participants must apply for and designate one LIHEAP grant to the utility administering the CAP; LIHEAP Crisis recipients must be offered entrance into the CAP of the utility company designated to receive that Crisis grant; and utility companies accepting Crisis grants are required to enter into payment arrangements for any remaining outstanding balance due.

There are also points of intersection between CAP and LIHEAP which have created complications and led to confusion and conflict. For example, LIHEAP policy and statute requires the crediting a LIHEAP Cash grant to a CAP customer's account. However, PUC

⁷⁷ Id. at § 601.44(c).

⁷⁸ Note, however, that almost all competitive electric suppliers sell their receivables to the utility company and have that utility company bill the customer for the supply charges. In this case, applicants who direct their LIHEAP grant to the utility will indirectly pay for the competitive supply. This is because the utility retains the ability to terminate service for nonpayment of the energy costs that it purchases from the competitive supplier. It is only in those cases where a supplier separately bills the customer that the customer cannot direct the LIHEAP grant to the supplier.

⁷⁹ 66 Pa.Cons.Stat. § 2803 (electric) and § 2203 (gas).

⁸⁰ 52 Pa Code § 54.73 (electric) and § 62.3 (natural gas).

policy, which governs utility accounting practices, had permitted a CAP participant's LIHEAP Cash grant not to be credited specifically to the benefit of that individual customer's current bill. Instead, the grant was permitted to be applied to cover the general costs of the Customer Assistance Program or to frozen pre-program arrears or to the difference between the CAP "Asked to Pay" amount and the amount that the customer actually consumed. To address this questionable application by utilities of the CAP payment, DPW has formulated a policy as to how public utilities that operate customer assistance programs must apply the LIHEAP Cash grant benefits to a CAP customer's account. This policy is specifically incorporated into the Final State Plan at Appendix B §601.45. Application of Benefits. The vendor copy of the Vendor Agreement for the 2015 program year also states that utility companies that operate a CAP will apply the LIHEAP cash component benefit to the customer's account in full to resolve any past due CAP payments, then to the current CAP payment, and finally, if any funds remain, they are to be credited to future CAP payments.

In the current program year, 2014-2015, §601.45 presently provides that the only application of benefits policy in effect is that the Cash grant has to be applied to the asked to pay amount.

Advocates will need to continue to remain vigilant and carefully review each customer's account to be certain that the LIHEAP Cash grant has, in fact, been credited properly; i.e. to the "Asked to Pay" amount. The review process may be daunting since it is often difficult to trace how utilities are applying the LIHEAP payments. The Commission has directed a number of distribution companies to work with Commission staff to make their billing and crediting processes more understandable.⁸¹ Advocates may need to request that the billing and crediting processes employed by other utilities also be made clearer.

Also, in reaction to this policy change, many utilities have sought novel means to recover the value of the LIHEAP grants which formerly covered general costs of the Customer Assistance Program. One method that has been applied, called "CAP-Plus" adds a flat fee to each customer's account based on the total value of LIHEAP grants obtained in the previous program year. The legality of this process had been challenged; however, the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania has recently affirmed Public Utility Commission's adoption of the CAP-Plus program.⁸² Two utilities, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania and PPL Electric Company are presently enabled by the PUC to implement CAP-Plus programs. Advocates should be aware that LIHEAP clients participating on these company's CAPs are required to pay this additional charge and should be aware that other companies may also petition the Commission to implement a CAP-Plus type payment.

Crisis Component

The Crisis component exists to aid households in a home heating related emergency, such as: loss of heat due to a heating system failure; actual or scheduled service shut-off; or lack of or

⁸¹Herbert Dickson v. National Fuel Gas Distribution, C-2009-2132947, Public Meeting, November 4, 2010.

⁸²Pa. Communities Organizing for Change, Inc. v. Pa. PUC, 89 A.3d 338 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2014)

imminent depletion of fuel. Crisis grants may be applied to either the main or secondary heat source.⁸³

If a crisis arises, then an individual may apply for a Crisis grant as well as for a Cash grant. In recent years, DPW has first looked to the Cash grant amount to resolve the crisis; if that amount is not enough, DPW has then approved the Crisis grant only to the extent necessary to resolve the crisis.

Cash grants, Crisis grants and the Crisis Interface program may be used individually or jointly to resolve the crisis. Types of assistance can include:

- Pipe thawing,
- Gas/fuel lines repair,
- Purchase of a new furnace/heating system,
- Furnace repair,
- Water-heating system repair,
- Broken window repair, or
- Payment of utility bills or for fuel delivery.⁸⁴

Although the Plan notes these particular examples, other heat related emergencies may be addressed. The advocate is encouraged to be creative in combining and leveraging these grants for the purpose of resolving the crisis.

Expedited Processing

Crisis grants must receive expedited processing. An individual who qualifies for a Crisis grant must receive assistance within 48 hours of the application.⁸⁵ In life-threatening situations, assistance must be provided within 18 hours of the application.⁸⁶

CAOs and administering agencies often fall behind on the processing of applications because of the number submitted within a limited time period. If the 48 hour/18 hour Crisis deadlines (as well as the 30 day Cash deadline) are not respected, the CAO may be contacted. Each CAO has a LIHEAP administrator who can troubleshoot missed Crisis deadlines. Have your CAO identify that individual, and contact them immediately if a 48 hour/18 hour deadline is missed.

Crisis Eligibility

Crisis applicants must meet distinct eligibility criteria to receive a grant:

⁸³ 2015 Final State Plan at § 601.61.

⁸⁴ Id. at § 601.62.

⁸⁵ Id. at § 601.4(2).

⁸⁶ Id. at § 601.4(2).

- The household must meet all of the general eligibility requirements regarding income, home heating responsibility, residency, and citizen status.⁸⁷
- The household must be without heat or in imminent danger of being without heat due to a weather-related event, a home heating system breakdown, a utility shut-off or an energy supply shortage.⁸⁸ **DPW has clarified that a household that heats with a deliverable fuel will be considered to be in a home heating emergency if their heating fuel supply will last less than 15 calendar days.**
- The Crisis benefit must alone, or in conjunction with other resources, resolve the home heating emergency.⁸⁹
- The household must provide proof of the home heating emergency.⁹⁰

Grant Features

The amount of a Crisis grant is equivalent to the amount needed to resolve the crisis subject to the minimum allowable Crisis grant of \$25 and the maximum allowable Crisis grant of \$500.⁹¹ The amount of the Crisis grant cannot exceed whatever amount is needed to resolve the crisis.

Crisis grants are paid directly to the approved LIHEAP vendor or utility.⁹² Exceptions, in which Crisis grants are paid directly to the applicant, are rare but may arise in master meter situations (one meter which measures overall usage for the entire premises) or when the vendor is not on the DPW approved vendor list.

Crisis funds can pay reconnection fees, re-start fees, and reasonable delivery charges.⁹³ **They may not be used to pay security deposits or late fees.**⁹⁴

Heating System Repairs

Weather-related heating emergencies may require a range of actions including heating system repairs or heating system replacements. A Crisis grant may be used to pay for the repairs; or a household may be deemed eligible for the Crisis Interface/Weatherization Assistance Program, which will make the necessary repairs or system replacements free of charge for the low-income applicant.

Deliverable Fuels

Special rules apply when the payment of a Crisis grant comes as the result of a shortage of deliverable fuels (e.g., oil, propane, kerosene, wood). A household that heats with a deliverable fuel will be considered to be in a home heating emergency if its heating fuel

⁸⁷ Id. at § 601.32(1).

⁸⁸ Id. at § 601.32(2).

⁸⁹ Id. at § 601.32(3).

⁹⁰ Id. at § 601.32(4).

⁹¹ Id. at § 601.61; also see id. at Page ii.

⁹² Id. at § 601.64.

⁹³ Id. at § 601.62(2)(i) and (ii).

⁹⁴ Id. at § 601.45.

supply will last less than 15 calendar days. An applicant’s statement that their fuel supply will last less than 15 days is acceptable proof of an energy crisis.⁹⁵

Also, in cases where the vendor delivers the fuel, a delivery, up to the \$500 maximum payment, is provided. However, if the fuel is not delivered by the vendor, the amount needed to resolve the crisis or the maximum amount of fuel that can be transported by the household in one trip will be authorized; again subject to the \$500 maximum Crisis payment.⁹⁶ A prior statement from the vendor is required to verify the cost of the non-vendor pick-up.⁹⁷

DPW permits deliverable fuel vendors to charge **either** the cash price normally charged for energy delivered **or** the same amount a non-LIHEAP household would be billed for an identical delivery, whichever is more beneficial for the client. (See Vendor Agreement ¶ 6a.)

The previous vendor agreement specifically instructed vendors that they were required to only charge the cash price. However, some vendors charged the credit price and waived the minimum delivery fee. These vendors contended that this practice was more beneficial because the household received more oil than it would have had the vendor charged the cash price and assessed the minimum delivery fee. This may be true in some cases. However, LIHEAP recipients who pay cash, in addition to the LIHEAP grant, in order to bring the delivery amount above the minimum, will not benefit by having a fee “waived” that would have never been assessed.

The issue remains as to who determines what is more beneficial to the client. What happens if a client pays cash to bring the delivery above the minimum delivery amount? It is our position that that this new standard should not be left to the determination of the vendor, but requires a fact-specific case by case determination by the LIHEAP case worker to determine which approach results in the most fuel being delivered to the particular household.

Because this is a relatively new policy, advocates are advised to actively monitor this situation and review the facts with clients to determine if they were charged more than the cash price for delivery of their fuel paid for with a LIHEAP grant. We are particularly interested in learning the effect on LIHEAP recipients resulting from this new policy.

Crisis Resolution

Households are **ineligible** for a Crisis grant if the grant, alone or combined with other resources available to the household, will not resolve the crisis.⁹⁸ Given the fragile economic condition of LIHEAP Crisis applicants and the current cost of energy, it is possible that a \$500 Crisis grant alone will be insufficient to resolve the crisis. Advocates may need to work with applicants, reach out to community organizations, and negotiate with utilities in order to generate the additional resources that will complement the Crisis grant in resolving the home heating crisis.

If a household requires less than \$25 to resolve a home heating emergency, then it will not be eligible to receive a Crisis grant.

⁹⁵ Id. at §601.108.

⁹⁶ Id. at § 601.61.

⁹⁷ Id.

⁹⁸ Id.

If a regulated electric or natural gas vendor accepts a Crisis payment based on a termination notice or based on the reconnection of service to the household, then that vendor must maintain ongoing service to that household for at least 30 calendar days following the resolution of the crisis.⁹⁹

If a household receives a Crisis grant payment that was approved up to 30 days before, or during the Winter Moratorium period, then service may not be terminated until either 30 days after the Crisis is resolved, or May 1, whichever is later.¹⁰⁰ Furthermore, if a utility accepts a Crisis grant, then that utility *must offer* that individual the opportunity to enroll in that utility's Customer Assistance Program (CAP) or into a budget billing plan.¹⁰¹

LIHEAP Crisis Grants and the Winter Moratorium

There are conflicting legal principles at work during the Winter Moratorium. In general, customers of regulated electric and natural gas utilities with a household income at or below 250% of the Federal poverty level are protected from service termination from December 1 through March 31 of each year, unless the utility is specifically given permission to terminate by the PUC.¹⁰² Customers of PGW have separate guidelines.¹⁰³

On one hand, Chapter 14 specifically states that a notice of termination is sufficient proof of a crisis to enable a low-income household to qualify for a Crisis grant.¹⁰⁴ This would seem to imply that an individual with a termination notice will receive a Crisis grant. However, since the basis for receiving a Crisis grant rests with the household demonstrating the existence of an imminent or actual crisis, DPW does not generally consider a low-income household protected by the Winter Moratorium to be in an imminent crisis and will not authorize a Crisis grant to such a household.

As a result, some confusing scenarios arise for advocates and applicants:

- **Scenario #1:** A regulated utility issues a termination notice to someone scheduled to take effect during the Winter Moratorium period. Before the utility may act on that termination notice, it must petition the PUC for permission to do so.¹⁰⁵ In the extraordinarily rare case that the PUC grants permission to act on the notice and terminate the household, then a crisis exists and a Crisis grant may be issued. DPW does not consider the household to be in crisis until the PUC has given permission for the utility to act.¹⁰⁶
- **Scenario #2:** A utility issues a termination notice to a household with income at or below 250% of the Federal poverty level that is scheduled to take effect during the Moratorium period. The utility either does not seek PUC permission to act on the

⁹⁹ Id.

¹⁰⁰ Id.

¹⁰¹ Id.

¹⁰² 66 Pa. C.S. § 1406(e)(1).

¹⁰³ Id. at § 1406(e)(2).

¹⁰⁴ 66 Pa. C.S. at § 1406(g).

¹⁰⁵ Id. at § 1406(e)(1).

¹⁰⁶ 2015 Final State Plan at § 601.62(2)(ii)(A).

notice or seeks PUC permission and is denied. In either case, the applicant is not in an actual crisis, but Chapter 14 would appear to authorize the grant anyway.

DPW treats this situation as a quasi-crisis. In past years, applicants in this situation did not receive an absolute denial, but the processing of the grant was delayed until a later date, pending DPW's determination that there was sufficient funding.

Advocates should be aware of the confusion this will cause for LIHEAP Crisis applicants. The applicant may receive a notice from DPW informing her that she is not presently eligible for a Crisis grant because there is no imminent or immediate crisis, but that she may receive a grant if, towards the end of the program year, she remains in a crisis situation and there is sufficient funding available.

- **Scenario #3:** A utility issues a termination notice in February to a household with income at or below 250% of the Federal poverty level. Because the notice has a sixty day lifespan, it still will be in effect on April 1, after the close of the Winter Moratorium.

A notice issued on or after January 31 may be acted upon because it still will be effective as a termination notice on April 1, the first day after the end of the Moratorium on which the utility can terminate service without PUC permission. Whether DPW will provide a Crisis grant may depend on a number of factors, such as the availability of funds, the actual closing date of the Crisis component, or other policy determinations.

A notice sent prior to January 31 will expire before the end of the Moratorium. It is ineffective, absent permission from the PUC, for the utility to commence the termination. DPW will treat this situation as a non-imminent crisis as in Scenario #2.

Vendors not regulated by the PUC are neither subject to Chapter 14 nor to the Winter Moratorium. Therefore, DPW will treat the customers of those vendors on a case by case basis. For example, some Rural Electric Cooperatives or municipal utilities preclude termination during certain winter months while some others do not.

Crisis Interface/Weatherization Assistance Program Component

The Crisis Interface/Weatherization Assistance Program component is designed to help low-income households who are in a crisis situation due to a heating system or furnace breakdown. The program enables a household to receive necessary repairs to a furnace or to replace the furnace outright. The program is open from November 3, 2014 until April 3, 2015.

Because situations like the loss of a heat source represent crises, action must be taken within an appropriate time frame of 48, or 18 hours. Initially, a non-permanent action, such as the provision of space heaters may temporarily help to ameliorate the situation. However, a more permanent solution should follow the temporary measure within a reasonable amount of time. Unlike the Cash and Crisis components, the Crisis Interface program component provides services rather than grants. It is administered jointly by DPW and DCED in the following manner:

- The applicant must be determined eligible for a Crisis Interface referral by the DPW administrative agency;
- The DPW administrative agency refers the applicant to the appropriate local weatherization agency;
- The weatherization agency conducts a home visit to assess the heating system situation, proceeds to take appropriate action to resolve the crisis, and if appropriate, initiate additional weatherization measures.

Special rules apply to eligibility for renters:

- In all cases, prior written permission must be granted by the landlord for the agency to enter the premises to provide Crisis or Weatherization Services; and
- In these situations, an agreement is signed between the landlord and the tenant and witnessed by the agency whereby the tenant will not be evicted or suffer a rent increase for a reasonable time (not less than 18 months), unless the eviction or increase is shown to be related to matters other than the weatherization work performed.¹⁰⁷

Appeals

An individual who has been aggrieved-- such as by being improperly denied LIHEAP benefits; by having benefits unjustly delayed; by being approved for less than the correct amount; or by being assessed for an overpayment -- may appeal the decision in question and request a fair hearing.¹⁰⁸ This may be accomplished by completing and signing the appeal section of any notice, sending a written or faxed request to the CAO or telling the CAO. In the latter situation there must be a written follow-up within 3 days. Note, however, that because LIHEAP is not considered an entitlement, no appeal will be accepted if the individual applied for LIHEAP after the program closed, or where there is a lack of funds.¹⁰⁹

Detailed procedures for the appeal process are found in Chapter 870 of DPW's Supplemental Handbook, posted online at DPW's website.¹¹⁰

Key time frames for the advocate to keep in mind include:

- An appeal must be taken within 30 days of the date of the written notice from the CAO.¹¹¹
- An appeal must be taken within 60 days of the CAO's failure to act on a request or an application.¹¹²
- An appeal must be taken within 6 months of the date of the CAO's failure to send a required written notice or where there is administrative error.¹¹³

¹⁰⁷ 2015 Final State Plan at pg. C-8.

¹⁰⁸ Id. at § 601.123(a).

¹⁰⁹ Id.

¹¹⁰ See

http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/manuals/bop/su/index.htm?_ga=1.127355917.1240097098.1411268990

¹¹¹ 55 Pa Code § 275.3(b)(1); [DPW Supplemental Handbook § 870.12](#).

¹¹² 55 Pa Code § 275.3(b)(2); [DPW Supplemental Handbook § 870.12](#).

Note: As long as the program is open, failure to adhere to these time frames as well as other appealable issues often may be resolved by an individual simply filing a new application.

Special Issues

Familiarity with the following issues will enable the advocate to be more effective.

Primary vs. Secondary Heating Fuel Types

LIHEAP designates two fuel types: main and secondary. Main Fuel Type is defined as “the source of energy for the central heating system of the residence used by the household or, if the residence is not centrally heated or the central heating system is inoperable, the source of energy used most by the household.”¹¹⁴

“Secondary Fuel Type” is defined as “the source of energy that is necessary to operate the main heating source.”¹¹⁵

The definition of secondary fuel type can be used to a household’s advantage. For example, if a household’s oil or gas furnace heating system needs electricity in order to operate, the loss of electric service to the residence may result in the shut-down of the furnace. In this instance, advocates may want to apply for a LIHEAP grant citing electric as a “secondary fuel type” under Section 601.3. Note: according to its Operations Memorandum 09-10-01, October 7, 2009, DPW is no longer considering water as a secondary heating source.

Restrictions

LIHEAP benefits may be used to pay reconnection fees, but may **not** be used for security deposits or for late fees.¹¹⁶ When attempting to reconnect a household’s utility service, advocates may need to look to other resources or to the utility itself to help generate funds for security deposits or late fees. In many cases, a utility will waive security deposits or late fees for CAP customers. In other situations, a request to a utility to waive security deposits or late fees, particularly when the utility stands to receive a Crisis or Cash grant in exchange for the waiver, may receive a positive response. Additionally, each regulated utility and some other energy vendors have Hardship Funds that will assist struggling utility customers with their bills. Contact the household’s local vendor to inquire about additional company-sponsored customer assistance mechanisms.

Transfer of Service

For customers whose service has been disconnected at their previous address and who need services to be connected at their new address, a regulated utility may request 50% of the customer’s back balance from the previous address plus a reconnection fee in order to restore service. If a LIHEAP Cash grant is more than this amount, the regulated utility must apply the remainder of the Cash grant to the household’s future bills. Utilities must also agree to

¹¹³ 55 Pa Code § 275.3(b)(3); [DPW Supplemental Handbook § 870.12](#).

¹¹⁴ 2015 Final State Plan at § 601.3.

¹¹⁵ Id.

¹¹⁶ Id. at § 601.45.

keep service on through the moratorium and enroll the client in a CAP or budget program if eligible.¹¹⁷

Earned Income Treatment

An individual with earned income is eligible to receive a larger Cash grant than an individual with unearned income. When determining a household's total income for *eligibility* for a Cash grant, all income is included. However, once a household is deemed eligible to receive a Cash grant, the administering agency will reduce by 20% the amount of income earned from employment in order to determine the *grant amount*.¹¹⁸ The effect is to increase the level of the grant and reward those households that have earned income from employment.

The Effect of a Regularly Recurring Annual Receipt of Funds on LIHEAP Income

Occasionally, a problem arises when a household receives its annual pension or annuity in one larger payment once per year, rather than through smaller payments recurring monthly. The LIHEAP State Plan clearly gives the applicant the option to choose the most favorable time period to use in determining the income to be calculated for LIHEAP eligibility – the past calendar month or 12 months.¹¹⁹ However, DPW generally counts the annual payment as part of the household income, regardless of when that payment is received. This may result in either an eligible household inappropriately being deemed ineligible and denied a LIHEAP grant or, if found eligible, in that household receiving a lower Cash grant. Advocates should be aware of this practice and be prepared to challenge it.

Refunds and Second Payments

Vendors receiving a LIHEAP grant must apply that grant to a customer's account within two program years. The two-year period is limited to end no later than June 30 of the year *following* the year in which the grant was awarded.¹²⁰ Any funds not used in that time period must be refunded to DPW.¹²¹ Also, if an applicant is awarded a grant and then subsequently dies, changes vendor, or moves from the vendor's service area, then the vendor must refund to DPW any unexpended grant amounts.¹²²

A second payment of these refunded amounts may be issued to a grantee within the two-year period where the grantee's whereabouts are known, the grantee continues to reside in the Commonwealth, and where the grantee retains heating responsibility¹²³ or where the crisis for which benefits were authorized continues to exist."¹²⁴

¹¹⁷ Id. at §601.31(2)(vii).

¹¹⁸ Id. at § 601.41(a)(2).

¹¹⁹ 2015 Final State Plan at § 601.83.

¹²⁰ Id. at § 601.46; § 601.65(1).

¹²¹ Id.

¹²² Id. at § 601.46(1); § 601.65(1).

¹²³ Id. at 601.46(2).

¹²⁴ Id. at § 601.65(2).

In situations where a vendor receives an overpayment and the overpayment was not the result of fraud, error, or misrepresentation by the applicant, then the error is considered an administrative error for which the applicant is not held responsible.¹²⁵

Master Metering Issues

Special challenges may arise for the advocate when confronted with a tenant who receives utility service via a master metering arrangement. Master metering occurs when a landlord or mobile home park owner receives utility service in his/her own name for a property in which multiple tenants live. When the premises are not sub-metered, the landlord may pass along the utility costs to the tenants through a formula or calculation that assesses an energy use or heating charge to each tenant.

There are two aspects of this situation that may make it appear that a tenant is ineligible for LIHEAP:

- First, since the utility charge is not an undesignated portion of the rent (i.e., where utilities are “included in the rent some CAOs, as they have done in past years, may suppose that these tenants do not have a home heating responsibility pursuant to Section 601.31(2)(i)(B). Advocates should note however, that the policy clarification provided within the 2014 Final Plan indicates that “Households that are renting with heat included and have a specific portion of their rent used for their heating costs are considered to have a heating responsibility and are therefore eligible for benefits.”¹²⁶
- Second, the utility payment by the tenant is not paid to an approved vendor, as defined by the Plan, but to the landlord, management agent, or subcontractor. The Plan specifically excludes landlords from the definition of vendors and precludes landlords from receiving a vendor payment at Section 601.44.

In these circumstances, advocates will need to present facts that demonstrate the applicant does have a home heating responsibility and that failure to make the required payments will leave the tenant without heat. In these situations, DPW may then provide Crisis grants directly to the tenants or mobile home park residents based upon a case by case review. See Section 601.64.

APPENDICES

These Appendices follow:

Appendix A: 2014 - 2015 Pennsylvania LIHEAP Income Guidelines

Appendix B: Online Resources and Forms

Appendix C: Glossary of Common Terms and Abbreviations

Appendix D: 2014-2015 LIHEAP County Coordinator Telephone Numbers & E-mail Addresses

¹²⁵ Id. at § 601.144(c).

¹²⁶ See Policy Clarification 1, 2014 LIHEAP Final State Plan, at page ix, and OPS MEMO 13-10-01.

Appendix A: 2014 - 2015 -Pennsylvania LIHEAP Income Guidelines

Household Size	Household Income 150% FPL for Cash & Crisis	Household income 200% FPL for WAP
1	\$ 17,505	
2	\$ 23,595	
3	\$ 29,685	
4	\$ 35,775	
5	\$ 41,865	
6	\$ 47,955	
7	\$ 54,045	
8	\$ 60,135	
9	\$ 66,225	
10	\$ 77,595	
For each additional person add	\$ 6,090	

* Eligibility information from

<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/foradults/heatingassistanceliheap/homeheatingassistanceliheapelibility/index.htm>

Appendix B: Online Resources and Forms

Online Resources:

DPW's Heating Assistance Web Page	PA Department of Public Welfare	http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/foradults/heatingassistanceliheap/S_000960
2015 Final State Plan for PA LIHEAP	PA Department of Public Welfare	Final LIHEAP State Plan FY 15
COMPASS	PA Department of Public Welfare	www.compass.state.pa.us
LIHEAP Cash Benefit Table for PA	PA Department of Public Welfare	http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/foradults/heatingassistanceliheap/liheapbenefitamounttable/index.htm
LIHEAP Clearinghouse	U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services Admin. For Children & Families	http://www.liheap.ncat.org/
HHS LIHEAP Homepage	U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services Admin. For Children & Families	http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/programs/liheap
NEADA	Nat. Energy Assistance Directors Association	http://neada.org/
PA PUC Homepage	Pa Public Utility Commission	http://www.puc.state.pa.us/
DPW LIHEAP Handbook	PA Department of Public Welfare	http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/manuals/bop/le/index.htm
PULP	Pennsylvania Utility Law Project	http://rhls.org/pa-utility-law-project/

DPW Online Forms:*

PWEA 1 - LIHEAP Application Form (English)	English- Energy Assistance
PWEA 1-S - LIHEAP Application Form (Spanish)	Spanish-Energy Assistance Application
PWEA 18 – LIHEAP Brochure English	LIHEAP Brochure - English
PWEA 18-S– LIHEAP Brochure Spanish	LIHEAP Brochure- Español
PWEA 32 – LIHEAP Request for Additional Information	http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/manuals/bop/le/PWEA32.pdf
PWEA 32-S –LIHEAP Request for Additional Information (Spanish)	http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/manuals/bop/le/PWEA32-S.pdf
PWEA 34 – LIHEAP Vendor Agreement	http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/form/s_001818.pdf
PWEA 36 – LIHEAP Landlord Statement	http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/manuals/bop/le/PWEA36.pdf
PWEA 36-S –LIHEAP Landlord Statement (Spanish)	http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/manuals/bop/le/PWEA36_S.pdf
PWEA 37 – LIHEAP Program Refund Form	http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/form/s_001821.pdf
PWEA 40 – LIHEAP DCED/DPW Crisis Interface Referral	http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/manuals/bop/le/PWEA40.pdf

*These are the forms available and online as of November 3, 2014.

Appendix C: Glossary of Common Terms and Abbreviations

CAO – County Assistance Office are local offices where Pennsylvanians can access a range of services for themselves and their families from professionally trained staff members.

CAP – Customer Assistance Programs assists eligible customers who are having difficulty paying their utility bills through a special rate administered by the utility.

Cash Grant (Component) – A onetime annual grant to assist eligible households with their regular heating costs.

COMPASS - COMPASS is the name of the website where individuals can apply for LIHEAP, the SNAP program, and many other services that may benefit low-income households.

Crisis Grant (Component) – Provides a grant to resolve heating-related emergencies, including utility shutoffs, malfunctioning heat sources, depleted fuel, and other concerns.

DCED – Department of Community and Economic Development administers the Crisis Interface/Weatherization Assistance Program Component.

DPW – Department of Public Welfare administers the LIHEAP program and other programs in Pennsylvania, designed to assist low-income households.

FPG (FPL) – Federal Poverty Guidelines (Level) – A representation of the federal poverty measure, based upon household income, issued each year by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to assist agencies determine eligibility for certain benefits and programs.

LIHEAP – Federally funded program designed to assist low-income households afford the costs of energy, specifically residential heating, in the cold weather months.

Primary Fuel – The Primary or Main Fuel Type is the source of energy for either a residence’s central heating system or the source of energy most used by the household.

PUC – The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission provides oversight for a number of programs and policies implemented by utility companies operating within Pennsylvania, including CAP programs, and the approval of service termination.

PULP – The Pennsylvania Utility Law Project provides information, assistance, and advice about residential utility and energy matters affecting low-income consumers.

Secondary Fuel – The source of energy that is necessary to operate the primary or main heating source.

SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as “food stamps” is a program administered by the Department of Public Welfare, participants of which, if not already approved for LIHEAP, receive at least a \$1.00 heating assistance benefit to maximize SUA.

SUA – Standard Utility Allowance refers to the fixed dollar amount for a household’s heating and utility expenses used in the calculation of shelter expenses for SNAP benefits.

Vendor Agreement – The Department of Public Welfare requires any fuel source vendor that wishes to participate in the LIHEAP program to complete and sign a contract known as a vendor agreement.

Weatherization Assistance Component (Crisis Interface) – This component addresses crises caused by heating source malfunction, breakdown, or failure through repair or replacement.

Winter Moratorium – Provides a period from December 1, through March 31, that prohibits utilities from terminating residential service unless granted specific permission by the Public Utility Commission.

APPENDIX D: 2014-2015 LIHEAP County Coordinator

10/17/14

County	Cty	D	LIHEAP Coordinator	Telephone Number	Address pa.gov	Alternate Coordinator	Telephone Number	Email Address pa.gov
Adams	1		Wilhemina Heckman	717-338-2308	wheckman@	Ryan Minnich	717-338-2309	ryminnich@
Allegheny	2		Joseph Cintron	724-339-6817	jcintron@	Dorothy McCarthy	724-337-5618	dormccarth@
Armstrong	3		Ellen Marshall	724-548-0241	elmarshall@	Kimbel Kovatch	724-548-0238	kkovatch@
Beaver	4		John Garlitz	724-773-7580	jgarlitz@	Sherri Graeser-Ray	724-773-7524	sgraessera@
Bedford	5		Laura Whetstone	814-624-4004	lwhetstone@	Linda Brouse	814-624-4008	lbrouse@
Berks	6		Marilyn Ramirez	610-736-4251	mr Ramirez@	Alicia Reid	610-736-4252	alreid@
Blair	7		Stephen Zupon	814-946-7168	szupon@	Joseph Beeler	814-946-6985	jbeeler@
Bradford	8		Patrick Gerrity	570-268-2613	pgerrity@	Frank Richart	570-946-1034	frichart@
Bucks	9		Kevin Spiegler	215-781-3329	kspiegler@	Maureen Hahn	215-781-3388	mhahn@
Butler	10		Meghan Merchant	724-284-8842	mmerchant@	Shirley Michelotti	724-284-8877	smichelott@
Cambria	11		Holly Burkhart	814-533-2309	hburkhart@	Tanya Shaffer	814-533-2281	tashaffer@
Cameron	12		John Patrick	814-486-4612	jopatrick@	Pamela Freeburg	814-776-0340	pfreeburg@
Carbon	13		Kristi Bower	570-271-3601	krbower@	Gail Solomon	610-577-9034	gsolomon@
Centre	14		Shelly Bowman	814-861-1949	sbowman@	Jodi Bitner	814-861-1912	jbitner@
Chester	15		Erica Dixon	610-466-1036	erdixon@	Eileen Haviland	610-466-1022	ehaviland@
Clarion	16		Amy Ortiz	814-226-1795	aortz@	Sandy Zacherl	814-755-2105	szacherl@
Clearfield	17		Pamela Mohney	814-205-1101	pmohney@	Cindy Lemmo	814-205-1018	clemmo@
Clinton	18		Tara Hough	570-893-4503	tahough@	Suellen Hans	570-893-4506	suhans@
Columbia	19		Roxanne Yurkiewicz	570-271-3602	ryurkewic@	Sabrina Williams	570-912-1131	sabwilliams@
Columbia			Cynthia Howey	570-387-4222	chowey@	Copy CAO		c-columbia@
Crawford	20		Terri Baker	814-333-3442	tebaker@	Terry Schlosser	814-333-3435	tschlosser@
Cumberland	21		Carol Dunkle	717-240-2747	cdunkle@	Judy Peiper	717-240-2725	jpeiper@
Dauphin	22		Norma Torres	717-787-1028	ntorres@	Shaniece Foggie	717-787-4555	sfoggie@
Delaware	23	1	Makeda Hudson	610-447-5586	mahudson@	Sharon White	610-447-3226	sharwhite@
Delaware		2	Andrea Clarke	610-461-3810	aclarke@	Janet Jones	610-461-3910	janjones@

Elk	24		Pamela Freeburg	814-776-0340	pfreeburg@	Janice Eberly	814-776-0303	jaeberly@
Erie	25		Laurie Kubaney	814-461-2114	lkubaney@	Heath Snyder	814-461-2071	hsnyder@
Fayette	26		Andrea Myers	724-439-7115	anmyers@	Jane Miller	724-439-7294	janmiller@
Forest	27		Amy Ortiz	814-226-1795	aortz@	Sandy Zacherl	814-755-2105	szacherl@
Franklin	28		Tom Walsh	717-262-6570	thowalsh@	Lisa Hunt	717-262-6539	lhunt@
Fulton	29		Nina Souders	717-325-1212	nsouders@	Linda Brouse	814-624-4008	lbrouse@
Greene	30		Mary Yoders	724-627-2808	myoders@	Dave Johnson	724-627-2821	davijohnso@
Huntingdon	31		David Miller	814-641-6447	davidmille@	Sharon Mason	814-641-6424	smason@
Indiana	32		Vicki Howells	724-357-2922	vhowells@	Alfred Boden	724-357-2924	aboden@
			Margaret Desiderio	724-357-2907	mdesiderio@			
Jefferson	33		Sandra Paulina	814-938-1339	spaulina@	Rebecca Mitchell	814-938-1302	remitchell@
Juniata	34		Lance Musser	717-320-1074	lmusser@			
Lackawanna	35		Jennifer Hanson	570-963-3321	jhanson@	Frank Muraca	570-963-4453	fmuraca@
Lancaster	36		Farah Hynes	717-606-0163	fhynes@	Kristin Strawser	717-299-7508	kstrawser@
Lawrence	37		Peter Mastroianni	724-656-3207	pmastroian@	Diana Iervoline	724-656-3207	diervoline@
Lebanon	38		Carol Maya	717-270-3672	cmaya@	Mario Luciotti	717-270-3677	mluciotti@
Lehigh	39		Kenneth Chappell (39)	570-271-3636	kchappell@	Peter Romanyshyn	610-281-6580	promanyshy@
						Shannon Eisenhauer	610-821-6510	seisenhaue@
Luzerne	40		Ted Christian	570-826-2573	tchristian@	Harrison Sheetz	570-826-2284	hsheetz@
Luzerne			Stacy Boshier	570-826-2217	sboshier@			
Lycoming	41		Patricia English	570-327-3305	penGLISH@	Alisia Troxell	570-327-3332	atroxell@
Mckean	42		Susan Martin	814-362-5334	susmartin@	Kimberly Hahn	814-362-5340	kihahn@
Mercer	43		Patricia Ginther	724-983-5089	pginther@	Patrick Degerolamo	724-983-5006	pdegerolam@
Mifflin	44		Susan Klinger	717-242-6075	suklinger@	Holly Ughetto	717-242-6067	HUGHETTO@
Monroe	45		Kristi Bower	570-271-3601	krbower@	Douglas Dunay	570-424-3966	ddunay@
Montgomery	46		Trina Holmes	610-270-3575	trholmes@	Donna McMahon	610-270-3575	domcmahon@
Montour	47		Roxanne Yurkiewicz	570-271-3602	ryurkewic@	Jamie Poust	570-275-7004	jpoust@
Northampton	48		Debra Evans	610-250-1710	debevans@	Angel Rivera	610-250-1886	anrivera@

Northumberland	49		Roxanne Yurkiewicz	570-271-3602	ryurkiewicz@	Christine Dunn	570-988-5930	chdunn@
						Mike Lisnock	570-988-5924	mlisnock@
Perry	50		Joni Abeling	717-582-5008	jabeling@	Jeannette Nitzenberger	717-528-8004	jitzenber@
Philadelphia	51		Linda Alvarado	215-560-4733	lalvarado@	Melvin Neal	215-560-4713	meneal@
Philadelphia	51		David Keller	215-560-2603	davkeller@	PW, PCAO LIHEAP VM		
Pike	52		Dyan Leslie	570-271-3638	dleslie@	Bette Pike	570-409-8370	bpike@
						Jim Pollard	570-409-8376	jpollard@
Potter	53		Michelle Valenti	814-274-4106	mvalenti@	Jim Keltz	814-274-4104	jkeltz@
Schuylkill	54		Tina Bright	570-271-3637	chbright@	Joan Stoudt	570-621-3007	istoudt@
						Kristine Herbst	570-621-3090	kherbst@
Snyder	55		Julie Eister	570-372-1723	jeister@	James Wirth	570-372-1712	jwirth@
Somerset	56		Cathy Zellem	814-445-1152	czellem@	Michele Peters	814-445-1114	mipeters@
Sullivan	57		Frank Richart	570-946-1034	frichart@	Patrick Gerrity	570-268-2613	pgerrity@
Susquehanna	58		Dyan Leslie	570-271-3638	dleslie@	Danielle Shortt	570-278-5147	dshortt@
Tioga	59		Cheri Wheatley	570-724-9672	cwheatley@	Cathy Kreger	570-724-9684	ckreger@
Union	60		Kathy Smith	570-522-5260	kathysmith@	James Wirth	570-522-5278	jwirth@
Venango	61		Kim Kingdom	814-437-4252	kkingdom@	Kim Irwin	814-437-4360	kiirwin@
Warren	62		Lisa McPherson	814-726-8821	lmcperson@	Meghan Dahl	814-726-8853	mdahl@
Washington	63	1	Debbie Young	724-223-4343	debyoung@	Andy Hartt	724-223-4419	ahartt@
Washington	63	2	Todd Pilkington	724-379-1512	tpilkinto@	Cassie Throckmorton	724-379-1511	cthrockmor@
Wayne	64		Dyan Leslie	570-271-3638	dleslie@	Thomas O'Neill	570-253-7123	thoneill@
						Mike Miller	570-253-7131	michaelmil@
Westmoreland	65	1	Berni Strychalski	724-832-5238	bstrychals@	Anita Kozusko	724-832-5269	akozusko@
Westmoreland			Crisis send to: PW, Westmoreland LIHEAP Crisis			CASH send to: PW, Westmoreland LIHEAP		
Westmoreland	65	1				Robert Small	724-339-6835	rsmalljr@
Westmoreland	65	4	Berni Strychalski	724-832-5238	bstrychals@	Diana Kerestes	724-379-1568	dkerestes@
Wyoming	66		Dyan Leslie	570-271-3638	dleslie@	Jeffrey Zimmerman	570-996-4110	jezimmerma@
York	67		Jodi Charleston			Jennifer Hardman		

