
Louisiana Housing Finance Agency



Energy Assistance Department

Darleen Okammor
Program Manager

December 10, 2008

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M E M O R A N D U M

To: The Board of Commissioner

From: Darleen Okammor, Program Manager

Date: December 1, 2008

Re: Energy Assistance Committee

The Energy Assistance Committee will not require a meeting prior to the Full Board meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 2008. Reports and other issues will be discussed at Full Board.

Please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.

ENERGY PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Darleen Okammor, Program Manager

DATE: December 10, 2008

RE: Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

Background: On April 18, 2007, the Board adopted a Memorandum of Understanding between LHFA and Louisiana Community Action Partnerships (LACAP) to transfer the administration of the statewide Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). LHFA, Energy Assistance Department has continued to have transition meetings with LACAP on a regular basis to access on-going transition issues, concerns and needs.

LIHEAP Express

As of November 28, 98% of the \$4.5 million allocated for services has been expended to serve 12,000 households and reaching 6,000 new households who had not received energy benefits in the last 12 months.

2009 Annual LIHEAP

On November 17, 2008, LHFA and LACAP released \$45 million to local community action agencies. The annual program is open to households who have not received a benefit, including LIHEAP Express, in the last 6 months for non-crisis assistance and 12 months for crisis assistance.

WAP Express

On November 11, 2008, the Energy Assistance Department held a public hearing to receive comments on the Weatherization Assistance Program amended state plan. *(A copy of the transcript is attached).* The WAP plan was finalized and submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy for approval. The community action agencies are preparing to ramp up production. We have plans to launch this program immediately after receiving approval from the Department of Energy.

Supplemental WAP Funding

There is congressional news that WAP will receive a supplemental allocation of \$250 million for 2008. This means that Louisiana will receive twice as much as the regular grant of \$1.7 million increasing the allocation to approximately \$3.4 million. So, we are looking at ways to ramp up production. There is also talk that WAP may get more funds due the upcoming NEW administration in Congress.

Energy Programs Activity Summary Through 11/21/2008

LIHEAP Express

Grantor: Department of Natural Resources (DNR) \$5,000,000

Type of Assistance (Sept. 29, 2008 - Sept. 30, 2009)	Total Expenditures	Number of Households Assisted	Households with at least one member who is:			Denied	Number of new Households
			60 Years or Older	Disabled	Age 5 or Under		
Non-Crisis as of 11/20/2008	\$3,869,049.00	8,143	2154	2940	2051	86	4395
Crisis as of 10/24/2008	\$625,751.05	1,443	163	359	482	10	889
Totals	\$4,494,800.05	9,586	2,317	3,299	2,533	96	5,284
Percentage of Total	90%		24.2%	34.4%	26.4%	1.0%	55.1%

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Grantor: Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Type of Assistance (October 2008-September 2009)	Total Expenditures	Number of Households Assisted	Households with at least one member who is:			Denied
			60 Years or Older	Disabled	Age 5 or Under	
Heating (October – March)						
Cooling (April - September)	2009 PROGRAM STARTED NOVEMBER 24, 2008					
Year Round Crisis						
Energy Special Needs Program						
DSS/OCS8						
Totals	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of Total						

Weatherization Assistance Program

Grantor: Department of Energy (DOE)

Type of Assistance (July 2008 - June 30, 2009)	Total Expenditures	Units Weatherized	Households with at least one member who is:			Denied
			60 Years or Older	Disabled	Age 5 or Under	
DOE Production						
July 1 - Oct. 31, 2008	\$232,510.21	63	39	28	13	11
LIHEAP Only Production						
July 1 - Oct. 31, 2008	\$258,469.34	34	25	17	8	19
Totals	\$490,979.55	97	64	45	21	30
Percentage of Total			66.0%	46.4%	21.6%	30.9%



TRANSCRIPT

Public Hearing

Louisiana Weatherization Assistance Program

2008 State Plan (As Amended)

November 13, 2008 - 10:30 a.m.

3rd Floor Training Room

Good morning, everyone. Today is Thursday, November 13, 2008. The time is 10:38 a.m.

This hearing is now open for the purpose to receive comments from the public on the Amended 2008 Weatherization Assistance Program Application for Federal Assistance from Department of Energy.

My name is Darleen Okammor. I am the program manager for the Energy Assistance Programs for Louisiana Housing Finance Agency.

In attendance this morning, we have: the Energy Assistance staff: Carolyn McQuairter, Costa Araujo, and Angela King, Housing Finance Program Specialists, and Patricia Hampton, the stenographer.

We also have with us today, our partners: Louisiana Association for Community Action, Mr. Willie Johnson.

On behalf of Milton Bailey, LHFA President and Charlette Minor, Administrator, who is in charge of directing and supervising the oversight of Louisiana Weatherization program, we would like to welcome you to the public hearing. Our president and the LHFA board of commissioners have been very engaging in the program and have been very willing to ensure that the program operations are smooth and effective for the people of Louisiana.

Now, I would like to bring your attention to the proposed changes for implementation during the 2008 Weatherization program year.

In August 2008, at the request of Governor Bobby Jindal, Public Service Commissioner Foster Campbell and the Department of Natural Resources Secretary Scott Angelle, DOE approved to re-direct \$5 million dollars of Petroleum Violation Escrow (PVE) funds to expand the Louisiana Weatherization Assistance Program.

PVE is a source of funds that originated from old court settlements paid by oil companies to the federal government for violations of pricing regulations. The settlement money was first paid to bulk users of fuel from companies involved in the suits, with the money left over split between the states to be used in helping citizens with energy conservation and other initiatives.

LHFA in conjunction with the Louisiana Association of Community Action Partnerships, will launch a new initiative entitled “WAP EXPRESS” in addition to the regular Weatherization Assistance Program.

The WAP initiative, previously funded at about \$1.7 million, is set to help about 644 homes this year, with an estimated average cost per home of \$2,959. The \$5 million in new money for the weatherization program means help for 1,415 additional homes. The estimated average cost per home will be \$2,966.

After reconciling the 2007 carryover funds, the total amount of the carryover funds increased to \$1,137,381. For Program Year 2008, the total budget for the Louisiana Weatherization Assistance Program will be \$7,850,805. Based on the funding level, the projected number of houses that could be weatherized is 1,953 for the 2008 program year.

The goals of the WAP Express program are to weatherize the homes of eligible low-income persons, improve energy efficiency, reduce energy costs and offer long-lasting energy savings.

This can be accomplished by:

- Installing low-cost measures to address general heat waste
- Installing energy efficient appliances, heating and cooling systems
- Installing water efficient fixtures and appliances (i.e. low-flow showerheads, replacing faulty water heaters)
- Installing Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs
- Installing Attic and Wall Insulation
- Providing client education that encourages lifestyle changes
- Providing training to improve workers’ technical proficiency
- Leveraging utility companies to offer incentives and rebates (i.e. coupons for light bulbs)

The outcome can be measured by comparing before and after utility bills and conducting clients’ surveys.

The Weatherization Assistance Program is open to Louisiana homeowners or renters of single-family homes, including mobile homes, whose home has not been weatherized in the past, and meet income requirements. Applications are submitted through participating community action agencies.

The maximum allowable cost per unit is \$4767, with includes other funding sources. For more information about the program, you may visit LHFA or LACAP’s websites:

<http://lacapinc.org>

www.lhfa.state.la.us

The microphone is now open for comments.

We ask that you limit your comments to no more than 3 minutes.

All speakers must speak into the microphone and give their name, address and business affiliation.

All comments should be relevant to the Amended 2008 WAP State Plan.

If you are hand delivering written comments and do not wish to verbally present your comments, please be sure to have your documents date stamped "received" before you leave.

Does anyone have any comments?

Good morning I am Dorothy Oliver, LaSalle Community Action Program, also chair person for policy advisory council for LACAP first of all I would like to thank God for being here. I don't have as much comment as I have questions. First of all on your annual file work sheet the b and c don't equal d I just think that is a typographical error. You are saying that Units Weatherized is 1953 and units reweatherized is 0 and the total units is 1928 you much have forgotten to include weatherized units or this is just a typographical error. The second thing is about most agency would receive an allotment to purchase additional equipment to improve the quality of workmen ship if you can explain what this actually means. I don't know if you are talking about the maximum allowable cost per unit is \$4767, with includes other funding sources or if you are talking about something else. The next this is the statewide waiting list and to expand the WAP program priority list with the items which is included in the state plan is this in addition to what is already being done during the weatherization process?

As the your first question about the number of units to be weatherize that number is 1953, so we will make that correction, thank you. The other question is about equipment being purchased this is all DOE money we have \$5551.00. It will be purchases of laptops, Trailers, cameras; it will be outlined in the subgrantee contracts. The type of services we will provide we do have a waiting list and thing is to try to reach those people who have been waiting a number of years. We will also open the door to new applicant. We will focus on the priority listing some of the items. Is that all the questions?

After this hearing, the application will be finalized and submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy for approval.

If there are no other comments, this hearing is closed. Thank you for coming. The time is 10:51 a.m.