
Louisiana Housing Finance Agency



ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Darlene Okammor
Program Manager

July 8, 2009

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M E M O R A N D U M

To: The Board of Commissioners

From: Darleen Okammor, Program Manager
Energy Assistance Department

Date: June 30, 2009

Re: Energy Assistance Program Committee

There will be an Energy Assistance Program Committee meeting, Wednesday, July 8, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at Louisiana Housing Finance Agency, Committee Room 1, located at 2415 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following topics will be discussed:

- Energy Programs Status Report
- Energy Programs Activity Summary
- Update for Proposed ARRA-WAP State Plan

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

July 1, 2009

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

A regular meeting of the Energy Assistance Committee will be held on **Wednesday, July 8, 2009, at 9:00 AM**, Louisiana Housing Finance Agency, **Committee Room 1**, 2415 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge LA, by order of the Chairman.

Final Agenda

1. Call to order, roll call and introduction of guests
2. Approval of minutes from the June 10, 2009 Committee Meeting
3. Energy Programs Status Report
4. Energy Programs Activity Summary
5. Update for Proposed ARRA-WAP State Plan
5. Other Business
6. Adjournment

Milton J. Bailey, President

If you require special services or accommodations, please contact Barry E. Brooks at (225) 763-8773 or via email at: bbrooks@lhfa.state.la.us

Pursuant to the provisions of LSA-R.S. 42:6.1, upon two-thirds vote of the members present, the Board of Commissioners of the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency may choose to enter Executive Session, and by this notice, the Agency reserves its right to go into Executive Session as provided by law.

Louisiana Housing Finance Agency
Energy Assistance Department
Wednesday, June 10, 2009
2415 Quail Drive
Committee Room 2
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
10:00 A.M.

Commissioners Present

Katie Anderson
Mayson H. Foster
Walter O. Guillory

Commissioners Absent

Tyrone A. Wilson
Susan Sonnier

Staff Present

Carolyn McQuairter
Costa Araujo
Annie Clark
Terri Ricks
Darleen Okammor
Charlette Minor
Collette Mathis
Demetria Farve

Others Present

See attached sign-in sheet

Commissioner Katie Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. The roll was called and a quorum established. Introduction of staff and guests followed. The minutes of the May 12, 2009 meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Guillory, and seconded by Commissioner Foster.

Updates: Commissioner, Katie Anderson reported on the WAP Max Special Committee meetings. The first meeting was held in order to organize and introduce other committee members to the program. The Committee was form as part of a prior resolution from the LHFA board last full board meeting. The Committee was identified as having five different members The Chair of the Energy Committee, Katie Anderson, The LHFA President, Milton Bailey, Energy Assistance Program Administrator, Charlette Minor, also included in this Committee were representative from the Department of Natural Resources and the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

The First and Second Committee meetings were both full Committee meetings with an orientation and PowerPoint presentation presented. The attachments of the PowerPoint, State Plan and Master File have been placed on the LHFA website. The Special Committee has for clarification purposes posted all the Special Committee meetings to the LHFA website. The design and purpose of the Special Committee was to work between the board meetings. This Board would have to meet all the requirements of the open meetings law and once a decision is made by the Special Committee they would be required to notify the Board of Commissioner and post all decisions on website within 24 hours prior to the finalization. If there is one board member that object; a specific action that decision must be deferred until it comes before the full board either in special session or regular session.

The Second Committee meeting included Resolutions which were adopted by the Committee and posted to the board members were not challenged during the 24 hour challenge period and will stand as an actual action. The training component was deferred due to the time constraints.

Commissioner, Mayson H. Foster requested it be brought to the attention of the board, the importance of including in the contract, strict performance criteria and timelines guidelines.

Darleen Okammor, Energy Assistance Program Manager reported on the LIHEAP and the Regular WAP Programs. The LIHEAP Grant award for the fiscal year 2009 was \$61,501,777. The Agency allocated statewide to the subgrantees \$45,657,071 that was 74% of the grant for administrative fees and utility assistance to eligible households. As of yesterday, 74 % has been expended which has served over 80, 000 households and reached 31,706 new applicants.

Regarding the LIHEAP Express funds 99% of the \$5 million received from DNR has been expended serving 10,570 households and reaching 5908 new applicants.

Some of the legislative updates for LIHEAP would also include May 15, 2009, 41 Senators signed a letter to the Appropriations Committee to request that LIHEAP maintain an authorized level of \$5.1 billion for fiscal year 2010, meaning Louisiana would receive which \$67 million compared to the White House budget that is estimated at \$2.4 billion which will reduce Louisiana's amount to \$31 million.

The 2008 Regular WAP program year ends June 30, 2009. The WAP Express was launched on February 2, 2009.

The 2009 Regular WAP State Plan was submitted to the Department of Energy on April 30, 2009 for approval. The allocation for Louisiana is \$3,623,154 with \$2,962,815 for Program Administration and \$660,339 for Training and Technical Assistance. As of yet, the Department of Energy has not release an award.

As stated in the State Plan, the annual Weatherization Assistance Program will continue to be implemented through the partnership between Louisiana Housing Finance Agency and (LACAP) Louisiana Association of Community Action Partnerships, which contracts with local community action agencies delivering services to all sixty-four parishes in Louisiana. The current MOU between LHFA and LACAP ends in 2010.

Commissioner, Walter Guillory interjected on behalf of the Assist Agency for a request to approach the board regarding their distribution and allocation.

Sharon Clement, Executive Director Assist Agency request to discuss why the Assist Agency was selected for Vermilion Parish although a RFI for was sent in for Acadia, Vermilion and Jefferson Davis. What were the criteria for the selection process and why were we selected for one parish and not for the other two?

Commissioner, Katie Anderson stated that part of the issue of applying for multiple parishes is when the awards to the subgrantees and allocations were made one of the goals of the committee and staff was to look at how to best administer the entire state. It was based on the overall need of the agency not just strictly on the request of the RFI, in addition to several other factors.

Charlette Minor, Program Administrator added for clarity that Assist Agency is a Community Action Agency, but Assist is not currently a provider in the program they were added for the application.

Debra Harmon, Assist Agency, expressed dissatisfaction in the distribution and requested consideration for future such programs is afforded to the agencies in such parishes. The factors are understandable but those tax dollars are being taken outside of the parishes, it is detrimental that we keep these dollars in their parishes.

Commissioner, Mayson H. Foster stated that through all the decision making processes, it was obvious when the decisions were made there was going to be some decisions that would be wildly unpopular. Ultimately, a decision had to be made and it was made, it is extremely important that we watch performance as we move forward and start working together to get the ultimate goal of weatherization to the citizens.

If there is no other business, the chairman entertains a motion to adjourn at 10:47 and was seconded by Walter Guillory.

ENERGY PROGRAMS STATUS REPORT

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Darleen Okammor, Program Manager

DATE: July 8, 2009

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

LIHEAP

The LIHEAP grant award for the fiscal year 2009 was \$61,501,777. The Agency allocated to the statewide subgrantees \$45,657,071 (74%) for administrative fees and utility assistance to eligible households. As of June 30, 2009, seventy-eight (78%) has been expended to serve 81,067 households and reach 30,527 (38%) new applicants.

LIHEAP Express – As of June 30 2009, ninety-nine percent (94%) of the \$5 million from DNR has been expended for services and administrative fees to serve 10, 567 households and reach 5907 (56%) new applicants.

Annual WAP

The 2008 Regular WAP ended June 30, 2009. The WAP Express was launched on February 2, 2009.

The 2009 Regular WAP State Plan has been conditionally approved by the Department of Energy (DOE) until a Public Hearing can be held on the revisions to the plan. The proposed plan is being revised to provide greater clarity relative training and the Policy Advisory Council. We will also correct a technicality by re-doing the public hearing. There are no substantial changes. No action by the board is required. A Public Hearing is scheduled for July 14, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. at LHFA.

ARRA-WAP

On June 30, 2009, the Agency received a notice letter from the Department of Energy that the ARRA-WAP application has been disapproved. The agency awaits written detailed information about the specific areas found to be non-compliant. The issues will be addressed and a new application will be submitted for approval.

Energy Programs Activity Summary Through 6/30/2009

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 Clients
			60 Years or Older	Disabled	Age 5 or Under		
Non-Crisis Assistance	\$4,056,441.87	8,775	2,317	3,189	2,200	718	4,784
Crisis Assistance	\$661,888.76	1,792	212	466	580	46	1,123
Totals	\$4,718,330.63	10,567	2,529	3,655	2,780	764	5,907
Percentage of Total	94%		23.9%	34.6%	26.3%	7.2%	55.9%

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Grantor: Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) \$45,657,071

Type of Assistance (October 2008- September 2009)	Total Expenditures	Number of Households Assisted	Households with at least one member who is:			Denied	Number of New Clients
			60 Years or Older	Disabled	Age 5 or Under		
Heating (October – March)	\$22,566,564.12	48,841	18,619	20,129	9,048	435	16,096
Cooling (April - September)	\$9,797,390.35	22,850	6499	8237	5461	252	9,317
Year Round Crisis	\$2,787,911.17	8,953	1,178	2,766	2,765	38	5,114
Energy Special Needs Program	\$330,200.48	423	57	182	211	57	N/A
DSS/OCS						0	
Totals	\$35,482,066.12	81,067	26,353	31,314	17,485	782	30,527
Percentage of Total	78%		32.5%	38.6%	21.6%	1.0%	37.7%

Weatherization Assistance Program

Grantor: Department of Energy (DOE) \$7,860,805 (1953 Units)

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 - Mar. 31, 2009	\$973,359.87	371	219	163	85	118
LIHEAP Only Production						
July 1 - Mar 31, 2009	\$736,653.64	284	165	149	92	118
Totals	\$1,710,013.51	655	384	312	177	236
Percentage of Total	22%		58.6%	47.6%	27.0%	36.0%