



## IOWA LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2020 FACT SHEET

### **PURPOSE**

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded block grant administered through the Iowa Department of Human Rights/Division of Community Action Agencies. It is designed to help eligible low-income Iowa homeowners and renters in the payment of a portion of their non-business residential heating costs for the winter heating season. The state contracts with community action agencies throughout Iowa for local program delivery.

The LIHEAP payment is made directly to energy suppliers for households who heat with natural gas, electricity, liquid propane, fuel oil, wood, and coal.

### **IOWA HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS (FY 2019)**

- 82,644 households served.
- 35.5% of households assisted by LIHEAP have an elderly household member.
- 97.6% of households assisted by the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program are NOT receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
- 53.9% of households assisted by LIHEAP have a disabled member.
- 20.0% of households assisted by LIHEAP have a child less than 6 years of age.
- 56.2% of LIHEAP households are below 100% of federal poverty guidelines.
- 68.3% heat with natural gas; 22.6% heat with electricity; 8.2% heat with liquid propane gas; 0.3% heat with fuel oil; 0.2% heat with wood/coal/other.
- 68.3% live in single family homes; 32.9% live in duplexes/apartments/mobile homes.
- Benefits are targeted to vulnerable households with low incomes and high heating costs. Elderly, disabled, families with young children, and working poor (who often don't receive any other form of assistance) are also targeted groups.

### **HOW LIHEAP IS FUNDED**

Currently funds are received in the form of a block grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The federal appropriation in FY 2019 was \$3.6 billion. Iowa received \$54.5 million. Funds were allocated in the following manner:

Heating assistance	58%
Crisis assistance	7%
Weatherization assistance	15% (maximum allowed by law)
Administrative and planning	10%
Assessment and resolution	3% (to reduce home energy burden)
Carryover to following year	7%

## **ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES (FY 2020)**

### **Income Maximums (175% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines) Mandatory use for FY 2020 Federal Energy Assistance Programs**

<b><i>Household Size</i></b>	<b><i>Annual Gross Income</i></b>
1	\$21,858
2	\$29,593
3	\$37,328
4	\$45,063
5	\$52,798
6	\$60,533
7	\$68,268
8	\$76,003

For households with more than eight members,  
add \$7,735 for each additional member.

### **HOW THE LIHEAP AWARD IS DETERMINED**

The energy assistance award is based on the amount of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance block grant appropriation and the number of qualifying households. The individual grant is based on household income, household size, type of primary heating fuel, type of housing, and targeting factors. Those targeting factors assure that households with the greatest need will receive the highest level of assistance. Last year, approximately 83,000 households received benefits from LIHEAP. The average payment was approximately \$470 per household.

### **HOW PAYMENTS ARE MADE**

Payments are made to the home energy suppliers in the form of a single payment. The client's assistance shall remain as a credit on the client's account until the program assistance is expended or the account is terminated. The basic energy assistance award is to be applied to the cost of the heating source supplying the household's non-business residential primary heating fuel.

All payments are awarded on a first-come/first-serve basis.

### **HOW TO OBTAIN A LIHEAP APPLICATION**

Applications for the regular LIHEAP program will be accepted from November 1, 2019 (October 1, 2019 for the elderly and disabled) through April 30, 2020.

If you are not sure where to apply, please visit, <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/where-apply> in order to contact your local community action agency, dial "211", or you can write to:

LIHEAP  
Iowa Department of Human Rights  
Capitol Complex  
Des Moines, IA 50319

### **HOW FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED**

Information can be obtained at the website: <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/liheap>, check the telephone book for listings under "community action agencies", or write to: LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Human Rights, Division of Community Action Agencies, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. Telephone: 515-281-3861, for hearing impaired with a telecommunication device for the deaf (TTD), call RELAY IOWA on their toll-free number: 1-800-735-2942.