



IOWA LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2022 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 2021)

- 80,753 households applied for energy assistance
- 36.7% of households assisted by LIHEAP had an elderly household member
- 98.0% of households assisted by the LIHEAP were NOT receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- 50.0% of households assisted by LIHEAP had a disabled member
- 17.2% of households assisted by LIHEAP had a child less than 6 years of age
- 58.7% of LIHEAP households were below 100% of federal poverty guidelines
- 66.7% heated with natural gas; 23.0% heated with electricity; 7.7% heated with liquid propane gas; 0.2% heated with fuel oil; 0.2% heated with wood/coal/other
- 64.7% lived in a single family home; 33.0% lived in a duplex/apartment/mobile home
- 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 annual federal appropriation in FY 2021 was \$3.7 billion; Iowa received \$54.7 million. Funds were allocated in the following manner:

Heating assistance	57%
Crisis assistance	8%
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%

In addition, Congress appropriated supplemental funding for LIHEAP under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2), which the President signed into law on March 11, 2021. This act provided \$4.5 billion for additional funding to provide payments for LIHEAP, of which Iowa received \$78.5 million. Funds are available through September 30, 2022.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES (FY 2022)

Income Maximums (200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines) Mandatory use for FY 2022 Federal Energy Assistance Programs

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Annual Gross Income</u>
1	\$25,760
2	\$34,840
3	\$43,920
4	\$53,000
5	\$62,080
6	\$71,160
7	\$80,240
8	\$89,320

For households with more than eight members,
add \$9,080 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 74,600 households received benefits from LIHEAP. The average payment was approximately \$455 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, 2021 (October 1, 2021 for the elderly and disabled) through April 30, 2022.

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.