

# LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP) Fiscal Year 2006 Iowa Fact Sheet

## What is LIHEAP?

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded block grant administered by the Iowa Department of Human Rights/Division of Community Action Agencies. It is designed to help eligible low-income Iowa households 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 the state 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, coal, and corn.

Five-percent of program funds are allocated under the Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP). These funds can be used for emergency fuel delivery, emergency service reconnection, repair or replacement of furnace/heating system, temporary shelter, and purchase of blankets and/or heaters, fans and air conditioners.

Up to five percent of program funds may be allocated to conduct assessment and resolution activities. Such activities include: budget counseling, energy education, outside referrals, arranging deferred or budget payment plans, staying a disconnect or negotiating payments or reconnections on the behalf of clients. Other activities include improving accessibility to the program to potential clients, making home visits, traveling to alternate intake sights and providing publicity concerning availability of Energy Assistance.

Fifteen percent of program funds are transferred to the Weatherization Assistance Program.

In 2006, 89,638 households (217,894 individuals) received benefits from LIHEAP. The average assistance award was approximately \$451.

## How is LIHEAP funded?

Currently funds are received in the form of a block grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

## What are the eligibility guidelines for LIHEAP?

A household applying for LIHEAP must report total household income for all persons 18 years of age and older. The household has the option to choose an income qualification period of either annual income or the past ninety (90) days.

Applications for the regular LIHEAP program will be accepted from November 1, 2005, (October 1, 2005 for the elderly and disabled) through April 15, 2006.

The total household income for an applicant must be at or below 150 percent of the 2005 federal poverty guidelines, which are listed below:

### INCOME MAXIMUMS

Household Size	Three Month Gross Income	Annual Gross Income
1	\$ 3,588.75	\$ 14,355.00
2	4,811.25	19,245.00
3	6,033.75	24,135.00
4	7,256.25	29,025.00
5	8,478.75	33,915.00
6	9,701.25	38,805.00

For households with more than six members, add \$1,222.50 / \$4,890.00 for each additional member.

**Are there any exceptions to the guidelines?**

Residents of publicly assisted housing units who are not vulnerable to the rising cost of heat are ineligible.

**Where can LIHEAP applications be obtained?**

Citizens may apply at their local community action agency from November 1, 2005, (October 1 for elderly/disabled persons) through April 15, 2006.

**How does a household apply for LIHEAP?**

All households interested in applying for LIHEAP must fully complete the one page application. It is very important that the application be filled out completely. Application forms may be obtained from any community action agency outreach office or neighborhood center. Applications may also be obtained from the Iowa Department of Human Rights, Division of Community Action Agencies, Lucas State Office building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319 - Telephone number 515-281-4204.

Applicants must furnish their social security number, a copy of their most recent heating and electric bill and proof of the household's gross income for the past ninety days or for the past calendar year.

Completed applications need to be mailed to your local community action agency outreach office or neighborhood center, or in care of LIHEAP, Iowa Department of Human Rights, Division of Community Action Agencies, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

**How is the LIHEAP award 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.

**How are payments 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.

Eligible households who pay an undesignated portion of rent towards energy costs will receive assistance sent directly to the household.

The assistance award for households whose primary source of heat is wood will be forwarded to the household electric supplier if a suitable wood vendor is not available. If no electric supplier exists, a direct payment may be made.

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

**How can further information about LIHEAP be obtained?**

Check your 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: 515-281-4204 or 515-281-0859 - for hearing impaired with a telecommunication device for the deaf (TTD), call RELAY IOWA on their toll-free number 1-800-735-2942.