

Annualized Income based on Family Size and Percentage of Poverty
LIHEAP 2022 Effective 10/1/2022

Family Size	0-50% of Poverty	51%-75% of Poverty	76%-100% of Poverty	101%-125% of Poverty	126%-of Federal Poverty – 60% State Median Income (LIHEAP Income Standard)
1	\$0 – \$6,795	\$6,796 - \$10,193	\$10,194 - \$13,590	\$13,591 - \$16,988	\$16,989 - \$26,469
2	\$0 – \$9,155	\$9,156 - \$13,733	\$13,734 - \$18,310	\$18,311 - \$22,888	\$22,889 - \$34,613
3	\$0 – \$11,515	\$11,516 - \$17,273	\$17,274 - \$23,030	\$23,031 - \$28,788	\$28,789 - \$42,757
4	\$0 – \$13,875	\$13,876 - \$20,813	\$20,814 - \$27,750	\$27,751 - \$34,688	\$34,689 - \$50,902
5	\$0 – \$16,235	\$16,236 - \$24,353	\$24,354 - \$32,470	\$32,471 - \$40,588	\$40,589 - \$59,046
6	\$0 – \$18,595	\$18,596 - \$27,893	\$27,894 - \$37,190	\$37,191 - \$46,488	\$46,489 - \$67,190
7	\$0 – \$20,955	\$20,956 - \$31,433	\$31,434 - \$41,910	\$41,911 - \$52,388	\$52,389 - \$75,334
8	\$0 – \$23,315	\$23,316 - \$34,973	\$34,974 - \$46,630	\$46,631 - \$58,288	\$58,289 - \$83,478

*** For families/households with more than 8 persons, 60% of State Median Income (SMI) poverty increases \$8,144 for each additional person.**

Special consideration must be made for the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and children under 6 years of age, as long as the household is income eligible.

The determination of which eligible households receive assistance is accomplished through the Priority Points System. Applicants are given points based on their incomes by family size, energy burden, and the presence of vulnerable members in the household. Those applicants with the lowest incomes, highest energy burden, and greatest vulnerability receive the most number of points available.

After the total number of points is determined for each eligible household, the applicants must be ranked from the highest number of points to those with the lowest number. Those households with the highest number of points must receive priority in assistance and must be served subject to available funds. If eligible households are tied in points, the applications will

applicant's energy burden and benefit amount.

Section 8/Housing Choice Voucher

Applicants that provide a bill in their name directly from the utility vendor and check Section 8/Housing Choice Voucher on the LIHEAP application are eligible for a full benefit amount. The applicant must provide documentation to the agency indicating any "Utility Allowance" or "Utility Reimbursement" received by the household (Examples located in the Appendix). Any utility allowance and utility reimbursement must be deducted from the twelve (12) month energy usage amounts before entering the amount into Energy Burden Detail box in THO. This is to determine the actual usage amount the household is responsible for.

If a client does not fit into one of the two categories please contact THDA for additional guidance. Flow charts for Public Housing and Section 8/Housing Choice Voucher programs are located in the Appendix.

2.8 Priority Points and Benefit Levels Matrices

Income Based on Family Size (35 Point Maximum)

% of Federal Poverty Guidelines	Points
0-50%	35 points
51-75%	30 points
76-100%	25 points
101-125%	20 points
126-150%	15 points

Energy Burden (20 point maximum)

% of Income Used for Home Energy Cost	Points
14% or higher	20 points
9-13%	15 points
4-8%	10 points
1-3%	5 points

Vulnerable Household Members (55 point maximum)

Household with:	Points
Elderly (70 years or older)	15 points
Elderly (60-69 years)	10 points
Disabled, self-declared	10 points
Children under 6 years of age	10 points
Adult Protective Services (APS) Referral	10 points
Six (6) or more persons	5 points
Veteran or Active Military	5 points

Tennessee Housing Development Agency
LIHEAP Operational Manual for Regular and Crisis Assistance

Benefit Levels

Total Points	Benefit Amount
	\$600.00
0-50 points	\$300.00 if client lives in Public Housing*
	\$800.00
55-75 points	\$400.00 if client lives in Public Housing*
	\$1,000.00
80-110 points	\$500.00 if client lives in Public Housing*

Benefit levels are established by THDA and used by all LIHEAP agencies in the State of Tennessee. Benefit levels must be established in ranges as indicated in the chart above. Benefit levels are uniform statewide.

The benefit levels for Energy Assistance (Heating and Cooling) and for Crisis Assistance must be included in the agency's operational plan.

Client benefits must be correctly distinguished between heating and cooling. The term **heating** is applied to assistance during October through May. **Cooling** is assistance applied during June through September.

To determine which households receive priority in assistance when sufficient funds are not available to serve all households with the same number of points, the applications will be ranked based on the energy burden calculated. Those households with the highest energy burdens are to receive assistance first.

2.9 Acceptable forms of verification for Veteran or Active Military

For Veterans: the Defense Department issues to each veteran a DD-214 or DD-256, identifying the veteran's condition of discharge - honorable, general, other than honorable, dishonorable or bad conduct. Before January 1, 1950, several similar forms were used by the military services, including the WD AGO 53, WD AGO 55, WD AGO 53-55, NAVPERS 553, NAVMC 78PD, and the NAVCG 553. State Issued ID with "VETERAN" listed, State Issued Driver License with "VETERAN" listed, Check Stubs for payments or benefits from Veterans Affairs. An expired Veteran or Military ID can be used to verify the household member as being a Veteran.

If none of the forms listed are available the subgrantee can contact THDA for additional guidance