

DETAILED MODEL PLAN (LIHEAP)

Mandatory Grant Application SF-424

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

August 1987, revised 05/92,02/95,03/96,12/98,11/01
OMB Clearance No.: 0970-0075
Expiration Date: 06/30/2017

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(LIHEAP) MODEL PLAN SF - 424 - MANDATORY

* 1.a. Type of Submission: Plan	* 1.b. Frequency: Annual	* 1.c. Consolidated Application/Plan/Funding Request? Explanation:	* 1.d. Version: Initial
		2. Date Received:	State Use Only:
		3. Applicant Identifier:	
		4a. Federal Entity Identifier:	5. Date Received By State:
		4b. Federal Award Identifier:	6. State Application Identifier:

7. APPLICANT INFORMATION

* a. Legal Name: State of Nebraska			
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): 470491233		* c. Organizational DUNS: 808819957	
* d. Address:			
* Street 1:	P.O. BOX 95026	Street 2:	301 CENTENNIAL MALL SOUTH, 3RD FLOOR
* City:	LINCOLN	County:	Lancaster
* State:	NE	Province:	
* Country:	United States	* Zip / Postal Code:	68509 - 5026

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name: Department of Health and Human Services	Division Name: Economic Assistance
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f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix: Mrs	* First Name: Karma	Middle Name:	* Last Name: Stockwell
Suffix:	Title: LIHEAP Program Manager	Organizational Affiliation:	
* Telephone Number: 402-471-9291	Fax Number: 402-471-9286	* Email: karma.stockwell@nebraska.gov	

* 8a. TYPE OF APPLICANT: A: State Government

b. Additional Description:

* 9. Name of Federal Agency:

	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:	CFDA Title:
10. CFDA Numbers and Titles	93568	Low-Income Home Energy Assistance


11. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project 2015 Nebraska State Plan

12. Areas Affected by Funding: DHHS LIHEAP Program and Weatherization

13. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:

* a. Applicant NE	b. Program/Project: Nebraska LIHEAP
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Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

14. FUNDING PERIOD:		15. ESTIMATED FUNDING:	
a. Start Date: 10/01/2014	b. End Date: 09/30/2015	* a. Federal (\$): \$0	b. Match (\$): \$0
* 16. IS SUBMISSION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?			
a. This submission was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372			
Process for Review on :			
b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by State for review.			
c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.			
* 17. Is The Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt?			
NO			
Explanation:			
18. By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)			
**I Agree ✓			
** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.			
18a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official Dave Heineman		18c. Telephone (area code, number and extension) (402) 471- 2244 Ext.	
		18d. Email Address dave.heineman@nebraska.gov	
18b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official 		18e. Date Report Submitted (Month, Day, Year) 08/29/2014	
Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.			

Section 1 - Program Components

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Community Services
Washington, DC 20447

August 1987, revised 05/92, 02/95, 03/96, 12/98, 11/01
OMB Approval No. 0970-0075
Expiration Date: 02/28/2005

THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) Use of this model plan is optional. However, the information requested is required in order to receive a Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) grant in years in which the grantee is not permitted to file an abbreviated plan. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Section 1 Program Components

Program Components, 2605(a), 2605(b)(1) - Assurance 1, 2605(c)(1)(C)

1.1 Check which components you will operate under the LIHEAP program. (Note: You must provide information for each component designated here as requested elsewhere in this plan.)		Dates of Operation	
		Start Date	End Date
✓	Heating assistance	10/01/2014	03/31/2015
✓	Cooling assistance	06/01/2015	08/31/2015
✓	Crisis assistance	10/01/2014	09/30/2015
✓	Weatherization assistance	10/01/2014	09/30/2015

Provide further explanation for the dates of operation, if necessary

Nebraska currently provides a year round crisis program. Nebraska contracts with the Nebraska Energy Office (NEO) administer the weatherization program, this is a separate contract.

The availability of the cooling program and the variables used to determine eligible households will depend on the funding received for the current fiscal year LIHEAP funds.

For heating and cooling eligible households, an extra payment may be made in the form of a contingency or supplemental payment or an increase in the regular season's payment during the current energy year. These payments may be made to either a provider or to the household. Supplemental payments will be an option for circumstances which include excess/additional funding, high energy, or extreme weather.

A copy of Nebraska's current regulations are attached.

Estimated Funding Allocation, 2604(C), 2605(k)(1), 2605(b)(9), 2605(b)(16) - Assurances 9 and 16

1.2 Estimate what amount of available LIHEAP funds will be used for each component that you will operate: The total of all percentages must add up to 100%.	Percentage (%)
Heating assistance	40.00%
Cooling assistance	25.00%
Crisis assistance	10.00%
Weatherization assistance	11.00%
Carryover to the following federal fiscal year	4.00%

Administrative and planning costs	10.00%
Services to reduce home energy needs including needs assessment (Assurance 16)	0.00%
Used to develop and implement leveraging activities	0.00%
TOTAL	100.00%

Alternate Use of Crisis Assistance Funds, 2605(c)(1)(C)

1.3 The funds reserved for winter crisis assistance that have not been expended by March 15 will be reprogrammed to:

Heating assistance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cooling assistance
Weatherization assistance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify): Nebraska runs a year round crisis program at this time.

Categorical Eligibility, 2605(b)(2)(A) - Assurance 2, 2605(c)(1)(A), 2605(b)(8A) - Assurance 8

1.4 Do you consider households categorically eligible if one household member receives one of the following categories of benefits in the left column below? Yes

If you answered "Yes" to question 1.4, you must complete the table below and answer questions 1.5 and 1.6.

	Heating	Cooling	Crisis	Weatherization
TANF	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
SSI	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
SNAP	No	No	No	No
Means-tested Veterans Programs	No	No	No	No

	Program Name	Heating	Cooling	Crisis	Weatherization
Other(Specify) 1					

1.5 Do you automatically enroll households without a direct annual application? Yes

If Yes, explain:
 If Nebraska has received an application within the last year for either TANF, AABD, or SNAP, the LIHEAP program is able to use this application on file to determine eligibility. If the household is only receiving LIHEAP benefits and no other programs, then a new application is required yearly.

1.6 How do you ensure there is no difference in the treatment of categorically eligible households from those not receiving other public assistance when determining eligibility and benefit amounts?
 Nebraska has a standard benefit amount that is determined by factors such number of household members, income, type of dwelling, and fuel type. All Nebraska residents are determined eligible by the same factors.

SNAP Nominal Payments

1.7a Do you allocate LIHEAP funds toward a nominal payment for SNAP households? No

If you answered "Yes" to question 1.7a, you must provide a response to questions 1.7b, 1.7c, and 1.7d.

1.7b Amount of Nominal Assistance: \$0

1.7c Frequency of Assistance

<input type="checkbox"/>	Once Per Year
<input type="checkbox"/>	Once every five years
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other - Describe:

1.7d How do you confirm that the household receiving a nominal payment has an energy cost or need?

Determination of Eligibility - Countable Income

1.8. In determining a household's income eligibility for LIHEAP, do you use gross income or net income ?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gross Income
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Net Income

1.9. Select all the applicable forms of countable income used to determine a household's income eligibility for LIHEAP

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wages
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Self - Employment Income
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contract Income

✓					
	Payments from mortgage or Sales Contracts				
✓	Unemployment insurance				
✓	Strike Pay				
✓	Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Including MediCare deduction</td> <td>✓</td> <td>Excluding MediCare deduction</td> </tr> </table>		Including MediCare deduction	✓	Excluding MediCare deduction
	Including MediCare deduction	✓	Excluding MediCare deduction		
✓	Supplemental Security Income (SSI)				
✓	Retirement / pension benefits				
	General Assistance benefits				
✓	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits				
	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits				
	Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) benefits				
	Loans that need to be repaid				
✓	Cash gifts				
	Savings account balance				
	One-time lump-sum payments, such as rebates/credits, winnings from lotteries, refund deposits, etc.				
	Jury duty compensation				
✓	Rental income				
	Income from employment through Workforce Investment Act (WIA)				
	Income from work study programs				
✓	Alimony				
✓	Child support				
✓	Interest, dividends, or royalties				
✓	Commissions				
✓	Legal settlements				
✓	Insurance payments made directly to the insured				
	Insurance payments made specifically for the repayment of a bill, debt, or estimate				
✓	Veterans Administration (VA) benefits				
	Earned income of a child under the age of 18				

	Balance of retirement, pension, or annuity accounts where funds cannot be withdrawn without a penalty.
	Income tax refunds
	Stipends from senior companion programs, such as VISTA
	Funds received by household for the care of a foster child
	Ameri-Corp Program payments for living allowances, earnings, and in-kind aid
✓	Reimbursements (for mileage, gas, lodging, meals, etc.)
	Other

If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

Section 2 - HEATING ASSISTANCE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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Section 2 - Heating Assistance

Eligibility, 2605(b)(2) - Assurance 2

2.1 Designate the income eligibility threshold used for the heating component:

Add	Household size	Eligibility Guideline	Eligibility Threshold
1	All Household Sizes	HHS Poverty Guidelines	116.00%

2.2 Do you have additional eligibility requirements for HEATING ASSISTANCE? Yes

2.3 Check the appropriate boxes below and describe the policies for each.

Do you require an Assets test ? Yes

Do you have additional/differing eligibility policies for:

Renters?	No
Renters Living in subsidized housing ?	Yes
Renters with utilities included in the rent ?	No

Do you give priority in eligibility to:

Elderly?	Yes
Disabled?	Yes
Young children?	Yes
Households with high energy burdens ?	Yes
Other?	No

Explanations of policies for each "yes" checked above:

For renters the only eligibility policy that differs, is that for renters, we will not look at furnace repair or replacement.

For subsidized housing, the household must be responsible for a portion of the heating payment to be eligible for heating.

Determination of Benefits 2605(b)(5) - Assurance 5, 2605(c)(1)(B)

2.4 Describe how you prioritize the provision of heating assistance to vulnerable populations, e.g., benefit amounts, early application periods, etc.

Nebraska reviews the household size, income, dwelling and fuel type to determine payment amount and larger payments will go to the households with less income, and greater energy burden.

See heating payment matrix table, attached.

2.5 Check the variables you use to determine your benefit levels. (Check all that apply):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Income
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family (household) size
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Home energy cost or need:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fuel type
Climate/region
Individual bill
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dwelling type
Energy burden (% of income spent on home energy)

✓ Energy need

✓ Other - Describe:

Nebraska will also allow some expenses that will decrease the household's income. These could include but are not limited to, court ordered child support or alimony, health insurance costs, etc.

Benefit Levels, 2605(b)(5) - Assurance 5, 2605(c)(1)(B)

2.6 Describe estimated benefit levels for FY 2015:

Minimum Benefit	\$167	Maximum Benefit	\$1,327
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2.7 Do you provide in-kind (e.g., blankets, space heaters) and/or other forms of benefits? Yes

If yes, describe.

Nebraska uses the heating assistance to repair/replace eligible furnace equipment for eligible households, this is limited to homeowners.

Please see attachment of the heating matrix payment table.

If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

Section 3 - COOLING ASSISTANCE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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Section 3 - Cooling Assistance

Eligibility, 2605(c)(1)(A), 2605 (b)(2) - Assurance 2

3.1 Designate The income eligibility threshold used for the Cooling componenet:

Add	Household size	Eligibility Guideline	Eligibility Threshold
1	All Household Sizes	HHS Poverty Guidelines	116.00%

3.2 Do you have additional eligibility requirements for COOLING ASSISTANCE? Yes

3.3 Check the appropriate boxes below and describe the policies for each.

Do you require an Assets test ? Yes

Do you have additional/differing eligibility policies for:

Renters?	No
Renters Living in subsidized housing ?	Yes
Renters with utilities included in the rent ?	No

Do you give priority in eligibility to:

Elderly?	Yes
Disabled?	Yes
Young children?	Yes
Households with high energy burdens ?	Yes
Other?	No

Explanations of policies for each "yes" checked above:

For subsidized housing, the household must be responsible for a portion of the cooling payment to be eligible for cooling.

Fans and/or air conditioner repair/replacement or window air conditioners for eligible cooling households may be funded with cooling program funds.

Children are identified as age 5 and under and must be in an ADC/TANF household that receives a grant.

Medical necessity must be provided if there are no household members that are age 70 or older. This is documented on the DM-5 and IM-55 (see attached physician's report for cooling and IM-55 for cooling).

3.4 Describe how you prioritize the provision of cooling assistance to vulnerable populations, e.g., benefit amounts, early application periods, etc.

Nebraska reviews the household size, income, dwelling and fuel type to determine payment amount and larger payments will go to the households with less income, and greater energy burden.

See cooling matrix payment table, attached.

Determination of Benefits 2605(b)(5) - Assurance 5, 2605(c)(1)(B)

3.5 Check the variables you use to determine your benefit levels. (Check all that apply):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Income
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Family (household) size
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Home energy cost or need:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fuel type
	Climate/region

Individual bill

Dwelling type

Energy burden (% of income spent on home energy)

Energy need

Other - Describe:

Nebraska will also allow some expenses that will decrease the household's income. This could include but is not are not limited to, court ordered child support or alimony, health insurance costs, etc.

Benefit Levels, 2605(b)(5) - Assurance 5, 2605(c)(1)(B)

3.6 Describe estimated benefit levels for FY 2015:

Minimum Benefit	\$245	Maximum Benefit	\$688
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3.7 Do you provide in-kind (e.g., fans, air conditioners) and/or other forms of benefits? Yes

If yes, describe.

Nebraska uses cooling assistance funds to provide window air conditioners and fans to cooling eligible households. Nebraska also assists with repairs/replaces central air conditioner units for cooling eligible households, this is limited to homeowners.

See attached cooling matrix payment table.

If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

Section 4 - CRISIS ASSISTANCE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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Section 4: CRISIS ASSISTANCE

Eligibility - 2604(c), 2605(c)(1)(A)

4.1 Designate the income eligibility threshold used for the crisis component

Add	Household size	Eligibility Guideline	Eligibility Threshold
1	All Household Sizes	HHS Poverty Guidelines	116.00%

4.2 Provide your LIHEAP program's definition for determining a crisis.

Nebraska defines a crisis situation as the household has a shut off notice, currently without heating or cooling, is in jeopardy of being taken off their budget plan, or an empty or near empty fuel tank.

4.3 What constitutes a life-threatening crisis?

Nebraska defines a crisis to be life-threatening if the household is experiencing loss of the ability to heat or cool their home and the household contains a member that is frail (receiving disability - SSA/SSI, VA or other types of disability payment), elderly (60 or older), young child (under the age of 6 - does not have to be ADC eligible), or a member is using a medical device that requires electricity.

Crisis Requirement, 2604(c)

4.4 Within how many hours do you provide an intervention that will resolve the energy crisis for eligible households? 48Hours

4.5 Within how many hours do you provide an intervention that will resolve the energy crisis for eligible households in life-threatening situations? 18Hours

Crisis Eligibility, 2605(c)(1)(A)

4.6 Do you have additional eligibility requirements for CRISIS ASSISTANCE? Yes

4.7 Check the appropriate boxes below and describe the policies for each

Do you require an Assets test ? Yes

Do you give priority in eligibility to :

Elderly?	Yes
Disabled?	Yes
Young Children?	Yes
Households with high energy burdens?	Yes
Other? Medical Devices	Yes

In Order to receive crisis assistance:

Must the household have received a shut-off notice or have a near empty tank?	No
Must the household have been shut off or have an empty tank?	No
Must the household have exhausted their regular heating benefit?	
Must renters with heating costs included in their rent have received an eviction notice ?	No
Must heating/cooling be medically necessary?	No
Must the household have non-working heating or cooling equipment?	No
Other? Good Payment history unless extenuating circumstances	Yes

Do you have additional / differing eligibility policies for:

Renters?	No
Renters living in subsidized housing?	Yes

Renters with utilities included in the rent?	Yes
Explanations of policies for each "yes" checked above:	
<p>For subsidized housing, the household must be responsible for a portion of the heating or cooling payment to be eligible for crisis assistance.</p> <p>If utilities are included in the rent and there is an eviction notice, the eviction notice would need to be resolved prior to receiving crisis assistance through LIHEAP.</p>	
Determination of Benefits	
4.8 How do you handle crisis situations?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Separate component
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fast Track
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other - Describe:
4.9 If you have a separate component, how do you determine crisis assistance benefits?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amount to resolve the crisis.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other - Describe: Amount to resolve the crisis, up to a maximum of \$500, amounts in excess of \$500 may be approved with Central Office authorization. In times of extreme cold or heat, the Central Office may issue a memo with approval to exceed the \$500 maximum.
Crisis Requirements, 2604(c)	
4.10 Do you accept applications for energy crisis assistance at sites that are geographically accessible to all households in the area to be served?	
Yes Explain.	
Nebraska has the ability to accept online applications so households do not need to leave their homes to apply for benefits. Households may also call our 1-800 number and request assistance.	
4.11 Do you provide individuals who are physically disabled the means to:	
Submit applications for crisis benefits without leaving their homes?	
Yes If No, explain.	
Travel to the sites at which applications for crisis assistance are accepted?	
No If No, explain.	
If you answered "No" to both options in question 4.11, please explain alternative means of intake to those who are homebound or physically disabled?	
Nebraska has the ability to accept online applications so households do not need to leave their homes to apply for benefits. Households may also call our 1-800 number and request assistance, if the household was already determined eligible for heating or cooling, no new application is needed. If the household has not been determined eligible for heating or cooling and has a current application on file, nothing else is needed. If the household does not have a current application on file, the worker would send an application by mail to the household and discuss with the provider that the client is working with the agency and to delay shut off.	
Benefit Levels, 2605(c)(1)(B)	
4.12 Indicate the maximum benefit for each type of crisis assistance offered.	
Winter Crisis	\$0 maximum benefit
Summer Crisis	\$0 maximum benefit
Year-round Crisis	\$500 maximum benefit
4.13 Do you provide in-kind (e.g. blankets, space heaters, fans) and/or other forms of benefits?	
Yes If yes, Describe	
Nebraska provides repair/replacement of furnace and/or central air units, fans and window air conditioners. See heating and cooling criteria for eligibility.	
Amounts in excess of \$500 may be approved with Central Office authorization. In times of extreme cold or heat, the Central Office may issue a memo with approval to exceed the \$500 maximum.	
4.14 Do you provide for equipment repair or replacement using crisis funds?	

Yes

If you answered "Yes" to question 4.14, you must complete question 4.15.

4.15 Check appropriate boxes below to indicate type(s) of assistance provided.

	Winter Crisis	Summer Crisis	Year-round Crisis
Heating system repair			✓
Heating system replacement			✓
Cooling system repair			✓
Cooling system replacement			✓
Wood stove purchase			✓
Pellet stove purchase			✓
Solar panel(s)			
Utility poles / gas line hook-ups			
Other (Specify): Window Air Conditioner Units and Fans			✓

4.16 Do any of the utility vendors you work with enforce a moratorium on shut offs?

Yes

If you responded "Yes" to question 4.16, you must respond to question 4.17.

4.17 Describe the terms of the moratorium and any special dispensation received by LIHEAP clients during or after the moratorium period.

Nebraska utility providers will not shut off household's energy if the temperatures are below freezing.

If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

Section 5 - WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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 MODEL PLAN
 SF - 424 - MANDATORY**

Section 5: WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE

Eligibility, 2605(c)(1)(A), 2605(b)(2) - Assurance 2

5.1 Designate the income eligibility threshold used for the Weatherization component

Add	Household Size	Eligibility Guideline	Eligibility Threshold
1	All Household Sizes	HHS Poverty Guidelines	200.00%

5.2 Do you enter into an interagency agreement to have another government agency administer a WEATHERIZATION component? Yes

5.3 If yes, name the agency. Nebraska Energy Office (NEO)

5.4 Is there a separate monitoring protocol for weatherization? Yes

WEATHERIZATION - Types of Rules

5.5 Under what rules do you administer LIHEAP weatherization? (Check only one.)

Entirely under LIHEAP (not DOE) rules

Entirely under DOE WAP (not LIHEAP) rules

Mostly under LIHEAP rules with the following DOE WAP rule(s) where LIHEAP and WAP rules differ (Check all that apply):

Income Threshold

Weatherization of entire multi-family housing structure is permitted if at least 66% of units (50% in 2- & 4-unit buildings) are eligible units or will become eligible within 180 days

Weatherize shelters temporarily housing primarily low income persons (excluding nursing homes, prisons, and similar institutional care facilities).

Other - Describe:

Mostly under DOE WAP rules, with the following LIHEAP rule(s) where LIHEAP and WAP rules differ (Check all that apply.)

Income Threshold

Weatherization not subject to DOE WAP maximum statewide average cost per dwelling unit.

Weatherization measures are not subject to DOE Savings to Investment Ratio (SIR) standards.

Other - Describe:

Eligibility, 2605(b)(5) - Assurance 5

5.6 Do you require an assets test? Yes

5.7 Do you have additional/differing eligibility policies for :

Renters Yes

Renters living in subsidized housing? Yes

5.8 Do you give priority in eligibility to:

Elderly? Yes

Disabled? Yes

Young Children? Yes

House holds with high energy burdens? No

Other? Native American Yes

If you selected "Yes" for any of the options in questions 5.6, 5.7, or 5.8, you must provide further explanation of these policies in the text field below.

(5.6) NEO's subgrantees get a financial statements from clients to determine eligibility.

(5.7) Renter's must have a landlord agreement to approve modifications to the household, and that the landlord will not raise rent expense or sell the property in a 12 month period.

(5.8) This population has a higher priority, and their weatherization would be expedited and be done prior to the households that do not contain the type of household members.

Benefit Levels

5.9 Do you have a maximum LIHEAP weatherization benefit/expenditure per household? No

5.10 If yes, what is the maximum? \$0

Types of Assistance, 2605(c)(1), (B) & (D)

5.11 What LIHEAP weatherization measures do you provide ? (Check all categories that apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weatherization needs assessments/audits	Energy related roof repair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caulking and insulation	Major appliance Repairs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Storm windows	Major appliance replacement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Furnace/heating system modifications/ repairs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Windows/sliding glass doors
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Furnace replacement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doors
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cooling system modifications/ repairs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Heater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water conservation measures	Cooling system replacement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compact florescent light bulbs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - Describe: Air Ventelation and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

Section 6 - Outreach, 2605(b)(3) - Assurance 3, 2605(c)(3)(A)

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Section 6: Outreach, 2605(b)(3) - Assurance 3, 2605(c)(3)(A)

6.1 Select all outreach activities that you conduct that are designed to assure that eligible households are made aware of all LIHEAP assistance available:

Place posters/flyers in local and county social service offices, offices of aging, Social Security offices, VA, etc.

Publish articles in local newspapers or broadcast media announcements.

Include inserts in energy vendor billings to inform individuals of the availability of all types of LIHEAP assistance.

Mass mailing(s) to prior-year LIHEAP recipients.

Inform low income applicants of the availability of all types of LIHEAP assistance at application intake for other low-income programs.

Execute interagency agreements with other low-income program offices to perform outreach to target groups.

Other (specify):

Nebraska has a list of community partners across the state that participate in the fan program to distribute fans in the cooling season.

Nebraska has Community Support Specialists that work with the Community Action agencies to update and inform them of programs, the agencies then inform clients of the program.

Energy Providers also reach out to Nebraska residents with energy assistance needs.

ACCESSNebraska has a website to inform clients of the program and applications can be submitted via this website as well.

Nebraska also works with NEAN (Nebraska Energy Assistance Network), a local energy provider network for all providers, to inform the providers of any changes with the program and also keep current on energy eligibility and program progress.

If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

Section 7 - Coordination, 2605(b)(4) - Assurance 4

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Section 7: Coordination, 2605(b)(4) - Assurance 4

7.1 Describe how you will ensure that the LIHEAP program is coordinated with other programs available to low-income households (TANF, SSI, WAP, etc.).

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joint application for multiple programs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Intake referrals to/from other programs
<input type="checkbox"/>	One - stop intake centers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other - Describe:

Nebraska DHHS administers all low-income programs within the same area through ACCESSNebraska.

If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

Section 8 - Agency Designation,, 2605(b)(6) - Assurance 6

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Section 8: Agency Designation, 2605(b)(6) - Assurance 6 (Required for state grantees and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico)

8.1 How would you categorize the primary responsibility of your State agency?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Administration Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commerce Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Services Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy / Environment Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Housing Agency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Welfare Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other - Describe:

Alternate Outreach and Intake, 2605(b)(15) - Assurance 15

If you selected "Welfare Agency" in question 8.1, you must complete questions 8.2, 8.3, and 8.4, as applicable.

8.2 How do you provide alternate outreach and intake for HEATING ASSISTANCE?

Agency handles all low-income programs and only one application is needed for all the programs. If an application is on file and is current, then a new application is not needed.

Our NFOCUS eligibility system has a "mass run" of all heating eligible households to administer benefits to those that are eligible at the beginning of the Heating Season.

8.3 How do you provide alternate outreach and intake for COOLING ASSISTANCE?

Agency handles all low-income programs and only one application is needed for all the programs. If an application is on file and is current, then a new application is not needed.

Our NFOCUS eligibility system has a "mass run" of all cooling eligible households to administer benefits to those that are eligible at the beginning of the Cooling Season.

8.4 How do you provide alternate outreach and intake for CRISIS ASSISTANCE?

Agency handles all low-income programs and only one application is needed for all the programs. Household only need to verbally request Crisis Assistance, if a current application is on file. If the household has not been determined eligible for heating or cooling assistance and it is outside of the heating or cooling season, an application would be necessary. This could be an online application or the LIHEAP Application (see attached).

8.5 LIHEAP Component Administration.	Heating	Cooling	Crisis	Weatherization
8.5a Who determines client eligibility?	State Administration Agency State Welfare Agency	State Administration Agency State Welfare Agency	State Administration Agency State Welfare Agency	State Administration Agency Other
8.5b Who processes benefit payments to gas and electric vendors?	State Administration Agency State Welfare Agency	State Administration Agency State Welfare Agency	State Administration Agency State Welfare Agency	
8.5c who processes benefit payments to bulk fuel vendors?	State Administration Agency	State Administration Agency	State Administration Agency	

	State Welfare Agency	State Welfare Agency	State Welfare Agency	
8.5d Who performs installation of weatherization measures?				State Administration Agency Other
If any of your LIHEAP components are not centrally-administered by a state agency, you must complete questions 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, and, if applicable, 8.9.				
8.6 What is your process for selecting local administering agencies?				
Weatherization is administered through the Nebraska Energy Office (NEO). This is the only agency that Nebraska has ever contracted with to administer the weatherization component of LIHEAP.				
8.7 How many local administering agencies do you use? 1				
8.8 Have you changed any local administering agencies in the last year? No				
8.9 If so, why?				
	Agency was in noncompliance with grantee requirements for LIHEAP -			
	Agency is under criminal investigation			
	Added agency			
	Agency closed			
	Other - describe			
If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.				

Section 9 - Energy Suppliers,, 2605(b)(7) - Assurance 7

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Section 9: Energy Suppliers, 2605(b)(7) - Assurance 7

9.1 Do you make payments directly to home energy suppliers?

Heating Yes

Cooling Yes

Crisis Yes

Are there exceptions? Yes

If yes, Describe.

Payments will only be made to providers, with the exception where the provider is not cooperating with DHHS in accepting payments or an individuals utilities are included in the rent but the household meets the definition of economic vulnerability. NOTE: on occasions a crisis payment may be sent to the household when the provider does not have and does not care to have a provider agreement with DHHS.

9.2 How do you notify the client of the amount of assistance paid?

A notice is generated by the eligibility system and sent to the household (see attached client notice of action for approval-denial). In addition, payments made to the utility provider also include an explanation of benefits that is sent along with the electronic payment.

9.3 How do you assure that the home energy supplier will charge the eligible household, in the normal billing process, the difference between the actual cost of the home energy and the amount of the payment?

Provider agreements are signed with all providers that receive direct payments from DHHS that requires the provider to apply the amount appropriately.

See attached provider agreement. Nebraska is working on updating these agreements in the 2015 energy year as well.

9.4 How do you assure that no household receiving assistance under this title will be treated adversely because of their receipt of LIHEAP assistance?

A vendor agreement is executed (copy attached) to assure that the LIHEAP households are treated in the exact same manner as private pay customers, as well as assuring that the utility supplier will comply with State Statute in regard to provisions and termination of utility services.

9.5. Do you make payments contingent on unregulated vendors taking appropriate measures to alleviate the energy burdens of eligible households?

Yes

If so, describe the measures unregulated vendors may take.

Unregulated vendors sign the same vendor agreement stated above.

If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

Section 10 - Program, Fiscal Monitoring, and Audit, 2605(b)(10) - Assurance 10

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Section 10: Program, Fiscal Monitoring, and Audit, 2605(b)(10)

10.1. How do you ensure good fiscal accounting and tracking of LIHEAP funds?

LIHEAP expenditures are accounted for in the State of Nebraska's EnterpriseOne (E1) accounting system. Eligibility and authorization services are now entered and tracked through the NFOCUS system. NFOCUS interfaces with E1 to issue payments.

In addition, LIHEAP administration has monthly meetings with the department's financial services section and also NEO to discuss and track grant spending.

Audit Process

10.2. Is your LIHEAP program audited annually under the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A - 133?

Yes

10.3. Describe any audit findings rising to the level of material weakness or reportable condition cited in the A-133 audits, Grantee monitoring assessments, inspector general reviews, or other government agency reviews of the LIHEAP agency from the most recently audited fiscal year.

No Findings

Finding	Type	Brief Summary	Resolved?	Action Taken
1	financial	2013-049 The Agency reported no reallocation amount for the 2012 grant but should have reported \$5,799,567. The Agency exceeded the administration limit by \$656,590.	In Progress	procedure/policy changes
2	other	2013-050 We noted 9 of 40 assistance payments tested did not comply with Federal and State requirements.	In Progress	procedure/policy changes
3	reporting	2013-051 The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Nebraska Energy Office (NEO) did not comply with Federal regulations regarding the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (Transparency Act).	In Progress	procedure/policy changes
4	reporting	2013-052 We tested the Annual Report on Households Assisted by LIHEAP filed for the 2012 grant and noted the report was not approved by a responsible individual, was not complete or accurate, and reported items that did not agree to supporting documentation.	In Progress	procedure/policy changes
5	financial	2013-053 The Agency transferred \$28,444 in costs to the 2011 grant after the liquidation deadline.	In Progress	procedure/policy changes
6	financial	2013-054 The Agency does not have procedures to return Federal funds for expired warrants to the Federal government. We noted 119 LIHEAP warrants totaling \$29,750 expired in June 2013. Those funds were deposited to the State General Fund and were not returned to the Federal government.	In Progress	procedure/policy changes

10.4. Audits of Local Administering Agencies

**What types of annual audit requirements do you have in place for local administering agencies/district offices?
Select all that apply.**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local agencies/district offices are required to have an annual audit in compliance with Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133
Local agencies/district offices are required to have an annual audit (other than A-133)
Local agencies/district offices' A-133 or other independent audits are reviewed by Grantee as part of compliance process.
Grantee conducts fiscal and program monitoring of local agencies/district offices
Compliance Monitoring
10.5. Describe the Grantee's strategies for monitoring compliance with the Grantee's and Federal LIHEAP policies and procedures: Select all that apply
Grantee employees:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal program review
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Departmental oversight
Secondary review of invoices and payments
Other program review mechanisms are in place. Describe:
Nebraska DHHS is the grantee administering agency. We strive to comply with federal laws and regulations.
Local Administering Agencies / District Offices:
On - site evaluation
Annual program review
Monitoring through central database
Desk reviews
Client File Testing / Sampling
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other program review mechanisms are in place. Describe:
DHHS does not use a local administering agency or district office to distribute funds to eligible households.
10.6 Explain, or attach a copy of your local agency monitoring schedule and protocol.
N/A
10.7. Describe how you select local agencies for monitoring reviews.
Site Visits:
N/A
Desk Reviews:
N/A
10.8. How often is each local agency monitored ?
N/A
10.9. What is the combined error rate for eligibility determinations? OPTIONAL
10.10. What is the combined error rate for benefit determinations? OPTIONAL
10.11. How many local agencies are currently on corrective action plans for eligibility and/or benefit determination issues? 0
10.12. How many local agencies are currently on corrective action plans for financial accounting or administrative issues? 0

If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.



Section 11 - Timely and Meaningful Public Participation, , 2605(b)(12) - Assurance 12, 2605(c)(2)

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Section 11: Timely and Meaningful Public Participation, 2605(b)(12), 2605(C)(2)

11.1 How did you obtain input from the public in the development of your LIHEAP plan?
 Select all that apply.

Tribal Council meeting(s)

Public Hearing(s)

Draft Plan posted to website and available for comment

Hard copy of plan is available for public view and comment

Comments from applicants are recorded

Request for comments on draft Plan is advertised

Stakeholder consultation meeting(s)

Comments are solicited during outreach activities

Other - Describe:

Please also see (attached) - State Plans Hearing Affidavits

11.2 What changes did you make to your LIHEAP plan as a result of this participation?

No changes were made as a result of the participation

Public Hearings, 2605(a)(2) - For States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Only

11.3 List the date and location(s) that you held public hearing(s) on the proposed use and distribution of your LIHEAP funds?

	Date	Event Description
1	08/14/2014	Public Hearing

11.4. How many parties commented on your plan at the hearing(s)? 2

11.5 Summarize the comments you received at the hearing(s).

Comment 1 (attached) - Black Hills Energy Public Comment - commitment to the relationship with DHHS and participating in future data collection.

Comment 2 (attached) - OPPD Public Comment - OPPD encourages DHHS to search for new funding and solutions/partnerships to assist with energy needs.

11.6 What changes did you make to your LIHEAP plan as a result of the comments received at the public hearing(s)?

No changes were made as a result of the received comments from the public

If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

Section 12 - Fair Hearings,2605(b)(13) - Assurance 13

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Section 12: Fair Hearings, 2605(b)(13) - Assurance 13

12.1 How many fair hearings did the grantee have in the prior Federal fiscal year? 19

12.2 How many of those fair hearings resulted in the initial decision being reversed? 4

12.3 Describe any policy and/or procedural changes made in the last Federal fiscal year as a result of fair hearings?

Nebraska is currently working on the LIHEAP State Manual to clarify policy and procedures. Please see the current Nebraska Regulations attached.

12.4 Describe your fair hearing procedures for households whose applications are denied.

Household must request an appeal, a hearing is then held unless the situation can be alleviated prior to the hearing.

Clients who are not satisfied with the determination on their application may request an informal conference with the customer service center or local office administrator or a designated representative before requesting a fair hearing. If this is done, the administrator or designated representative shall give a written decision within 10 days of the request and send copies of the decision to the claimant and the Central Office.

12.5 When and how are applicants informed of these rights?

Applicants are informed of their rights both in the information packet and on any application form used to determine LIHEAP benefits.

The Notice of Action that is sent to the client also contains the clients right to appeal the decision (see attached client notice of action for approval-denial).

An example of the Notice of Action is attached, as well as our current application and current regulations.

12.6 Describe your fair hearing procedures for households whose applications are not acted on in a timely manner.

The client can follow the same procedure as identified in denials. If the application is not acted on in a timely manner it could be cause for additional crisis benefits being needed to be issued to remedy the households situation. Supervisors and PAS (Program Accuracy Specialists) also track the timeliness of cases being activated in case reviews.

12.7 When and how are applicants informed of these rights?

They are informed in the regulations, on the application, and the Notice of Action (see attached client notice of action for approval-denial).

If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

Section 13 - Reduction of home energy needs,2605(b)(16) - Assurance 16

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Section 13: Reduction of home energy needs, 2605(b)(16) - Assurance 16

13.1 Describe how you use LIHEAP funds to provide services that encourage and enable households to reduce their home energy needs and thereby the need for energy assistance?

Nebraska does not do Assurance 16, but the following are activities that Nebraska does participate in to encourage and enable households to reduce their energy needs.

Please note that the grantee has considered "assistance with energy vendors" to be part of the administrative activities. This has generally been in the form of interceding with vendors on behalf of the eligible household experiencing a crisis. For example: if a household's service is scheduled for termination on Wednesday, but the agency knows the customer will receive a paycheck on Thursday, this will enable the household to pay the bill from the households own resources, the agency will contact the vendor in an effort to delay the termination. This may also require a guarantee of a crisis payment in case the households paycheck will not be sufficient to cover the entire bill. This type of activity helps to minimize the use of crisis funds or the amount of crisis funds needed to help the household. The grantee has considered this to be a routine expectation of eligibility staff which serves as advocates for customers.

Nebraska is also a member of the Nebraska Energy Assistance Network (NEAN). In the past, NEAN has conducted energy forums across the state on how to lower the needs of a household to reduce the energy costs. Nebraskaenergyassistance.com is the website for NEAN and carries information on many ways to save or reduce energy costs. Included are videos on Get a Head Start on Energy. NEAN also works with the Head Start program to do both videos and individual sessions with households.

13.2 How do you ensure that you don't use more than 5% of your LIHEAP funds for these activities?

The only expense that Nebraska incurs for the above activities, is a membership due with NEAN. This would never go over the 5%.

13.3 Describe the impact of such activities on the number of households served in the previous Federal fiscal year.

The impact of the activities is not measured at this time. In the next few years, with the new performance measures, this is something that will be more measurable.

13.4 Describe the level of direct benefits provided to those households in the previous Federal fiscal year.

N/A

13.5 How many households applied for these services? N/A

13.6 How many households received these services? N/A

If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

Section 14 - Leveraging Incentive Program ,2607A

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Section 14:Leveraging Incentive Program, 2607(A)

14.1 Do you plan to submit an application for the leveraging incentive program?

No

14.2 Describe instructions to any third parties and/or local agencies for submitting LIHEAP leveraging resource information and retaining records.

14.3 For each type of resource and/or benefit to be leveraged in the upcoming year that will meet the requirements of 45 C.F.R. Â§ 96.87(d)(2)(iii), describe the following:

Resource	What is the type of resource or benefit ?	What is the source(s) of the resource ?	How will the resource be integrated and coordinated with LIHEAP?
1			

If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

Section 15 - Training

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Section 15: Training

15.1 Describe the training you provide for each of the following groups:

a. Grantee Staff:

Formal training on grantee policies and procedures

How often?

Annually

Biannually

As needed

Other - Describe: New Hires

Employees are provided with policy manual

Other-Describe:

b. Local Agencies:

Formal training conference

How often?

Annually

Biannually

As needed

Other - Describe:

On-site training

How often?

Annually

Biannually

As needed

Other - Describe:

Employees are provided with policy manual

Other - Describe

c. Vendors

Formal training conference

How often?

Annually

Biannually

As needed

Other - Describe:

Policies communicated through vendor agreements

Policies are outlined in a vendor manual



Other - Describe:

Meetings with NEAN with the LIHEAP Program Manager

15.2 Does your training program address fraud reporting and prevention?

Yes

If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

Section 16 - Performance Goals and Measures, 2605(b)

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Section 16: Performance Goals and Measures, 2605(b) - Required for States Only

16.1 Describe your progress toward meeting the data collection and reporting requirements of the four required LIHEAP performance measures. Include timeframes and plans for meeting these requirements and what you believe will be accomplished in the coming federal fiscal year.

Nebraska will be working with Energy Vendors that provide the majority of Nebraska's utility needs in conjunction with NEAN to ensure that Nebraska is in compliance with the reporting requirements. Nebraska plans to have data collected from at least 4 of the vendors by the end of the 2015 Energy Year. These top 4 providers in Nebraska should encompass over 50% of Nebraska's LIHEAP Households.

If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

Section 17 - Program Integrity, 2605(b)(10)

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Section 17: Program Integrity, 2605(b)(10)

17.1 Fraud Reporting Mechanisms

a. Describe all mechanisms available to the public for reporting cases of suspected waste, fraud, and abuse. Select all that apply.

- Online Fraud Reporting
- Dedicated Fraud Reporting Hotline
- Report directly to local agency/district office or Grantee office
- Report to State Inspector General or Attorney General
- Forms and procedures in place for local agencies/district offices and vendors to report fraud, waste, and abuse
- Other - Describe:

b. Describe strategies in place for advertising the above-referenced resources. Select all that apply

- Printed outreach materials
- Addressed on LIHEAP application
- Website
- Other - Describe:

17.2. Identification Documentation Requirements

a. Indicate which of the following forms of identification are required or requested to be collected from LIHEAP applicants or their household members.

Type of Identification Collected	Collected from Whom?						
	Applicant Only		All Adults in Household		All Household Members		
Social Security Card is photocopied and retained	Required		Required		Required		
	Requested		Requested		Requested		
Social Security Number (Without actual Card)	Required		Required		Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Requested		Requested		Requested		
Government-issued identification card (i.e.: driver's license, state ID, Tribal ID, passport, etc.)	Required		Required		Required		
	Requested		Requested		Requested		
Other	Applicant Only Required	Applicant Only Requested	All Adults in Household Required	All Adults in Household Requested	All Household Members Required	All Household Members Requested	

1	Nebraska interfaces with the Social Security Administration to validate this data.					✓
---	--	--	--	--	--	---

b. Describe any exceptions to the above policies.

17.3 Identification Verification

Describe what methods are used to verify the authenticity of identification documents provided by clients or household members. Select all that apply

- Verify SSNs with Social Security Administration
- Match SSNs with death records from Social Security Administration or state agency
- Match SSNs with state eligibility/case management system (e.g., SNAP, TANF)
- Match with state Department of Labor system
- Match with state and/or federal corrections system
- Match with state child support system
- Verification using private software (e.g., The Work Number)

In-person certification by staff (for tribal grantees only)

Match SSN/Tribal ID number with tribal database or enrollment records (for tribal grantees only)

Other - Describe:

17.4. Citizenship/Legal Residency Verification

What are your procedures for ensuring that household members are U.S. citizens or aliens who are qualified to receive LIHEAP benefits? Select all that apply.

- Clients sign an attestation of citizenship or legal residency
- Client's submission of Social Security cards is accepted as proof of legal residency
- Noncitizens must provide documentation of immigration status
- Citizens must provide a copy of their birth certificate, naturalization papers, or passport
- Noncitizens are verified through the SAVE system

Tribal members are verified through Tribal enrollment records/Tribal ID card

Other - Describe:

17.5. Income Verification

What methods does your agency utilize to verify household income? Select all that apply.

- Require documentation of income for all adult household members
 - Pay stubs
 - Social Security award letters
 - Bank statements
 - Tax statements
 - Zero-income statements
 - Unemployment Insurance letters
 - Other - Describe:

Nebraska also requires self-employed individuals to provide current tax return or their daily/weekly/monthly ledgers that will provide income, expense, etc.

- Computer data matches:
 - Income information matched against state computer system (e.g., SNAP, TANF)
 - Proof of unemployment benefits verified with state Department of Labor
 - Social Security income verified with SSA
 - Utilize state directory of new hires
 - Other - Describe:

Child Support Enforcement

*Some of these matches will require information submitted from the household as it is considered a lead only match.

17.6. Protection of Privacy and Confidentiality

Describe the financial and operating controls in place to protect client information against improper use or disclosure. Select all that apply.

Policy in place prohibiting release of information without written consent

Grantee LIHEAP database includes privacy/confidentiality safeguards

Employee training on confidentiality for:

Grantee employees

Local agencies/district offices

Employees must sign confidentiality agreement

Grantee employees

Local agencies/district offices

Physical files are stored in a secure location

Other - Describe:

Nebraska also uses a release of information, signed by the household, to obtain information for the household from outside sources.

17.7. Verifying the Authenticity

What policies are in place for verifying vendor authenticity? Select all that apply.

All vendors must register with the State/Tribe.

All vendors must supply a valid SSN or TIN/W-9 form

Vendors are verified through energy bills provided by the household

Grantee and/or local agencies/district offices perform physical monitoring of vendors

Other - Describe and note any exceptions to policies above:

The household must supply Nebraska DHHS with the account name and account number, either verbally or through submission of the actual billing statement.

Nebraska is working on a procedure to further physically monitor vendors.

17.8. Benefits Policy - Gas and Electric Utilities

What policies are in place to protect against fraud when making benefit payments to gas and electric utilities on behalf of clients? Select all that apply.

Applicants required to submit proof of physical residency

Applicants must submit current utility bill

Data exchange with utilities that verifies:

Account ownership

Consumption

Balances

Payment history

Account is properly credited with benefit

Other - Describe:

Households supply DHHS with account name and account number, along with the utility provider name.

Centralized computer system/database tracks payments to all utilities

Centralized computer system automatically generates benefit level

Separation of duties between intake and payment approval

Payments coordinated among other energy assistance programs to avoid duplication of payments

Payments to utilities and invoices from utilities are reviewed for accuracy

Computer databases are periodically reviewed to verify accuracy and timeliness of payments made to utilities

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct payment to households are made in limited cases only
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Procedures are in place to require prompt refunds from utilities in cases of account closure
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vendor agreements specify requirements selected above, and provide enforcement mechanism
Other - Describe: Provider agreement is attached.
17.9. Benefits Policy - Bulk Fuel Vendors
What procedures are in place for averting fraud and improper payments when dealing with bulk fuel suppliers of heating oil, propane, wood, and other bulk fuel vendors? Select all that apply.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vendors are checked against an approved vendors list
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Centralized computer system/database is used to track payments to all vendors
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clients are relied on for reports of non-delivery or partial delivery
Two-party checks are issued naming client and vendor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct payment to households are made in limited cases only
Vendors are only paid once they provide a delivery receipt signed by the client
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conduct monitoring of bulk fuel vendors
Bulk fuel vendors are required to submit reports to the Grantee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vendor agreements specify requirements selected above, and provide enforcement mechanism
Other - Describe: Provider agreement is attached.
17.10. Investigations and Prosecutions
Describe the Grantee's procedures for investigating and prosecuting reports of fraud, and any sanctions placed on clients/staff/vendors found to have committed fraud. Select all that apply.
Refer to state Inspector General
Refer to local prosecutor or state Attorney General
Refer to US DHHS Inspector General (including referral to OIG hotline)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local agencies/district offices or Grantee conduct investigation of fraud complaints from public
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grantee attempts collection of improper payments. If so, describe the recoupment process Nebraska currently works with utility providers to collect improper payments, the provider returns funds directly to DHHS. Nebraska is currently working on a system change to impose a sanction for overpayments as well as Intentional Program Violations (IPV), which would include fraud. This system is set to be in place November 2014. After implementation the state plan will be updated with this criteria as well.
Clients found to have committed fraud are banned from LIHEAP assistance. For how long is a household banned?
Contracts with local agencies require that employees found to have committed fraud are reprimanded and/or terminated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vendors found to have committed fraud may no longer participate in LIHEAP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - Describe: Grantee employees who commit fraud will be reprimanded and/or terminated, with the possibility of prosecution. Clients who commit fraud will have a sanction, see above for overpayments/IPVs.
If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

Section 18: Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters--Primary Covered Transactions

Instructions for Certification

- 1. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective primary participant is providing the certification set out below.**
- 2. The inability of a person to provide the certification required below will not necessarily result in denial of participation in this covered transaction. The prospective participant shall submit an explanation of why it cannot provide the certification set out below. The certification or explanation will be considered in connection with the department or agency's determination whether to enter into this transaction. However, failure of the prospective primary participant to furnish a certification or an explanation shall disqualify such person from participation in this transaction.**
- 3. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when the department or agency determined to enter into this transaction. If it is later determined that the prospective primary participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency may terminate this transaction for cause or default.BrBbr.**
- 4. The prospective primary participant shall provide immediate written notice to the department or agency to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective primary participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.**
- 5. The terms covered transaction, debarred, suspended, ineligible, lower tier covered transaction, participant, person, primary covered transaction, principal, proposal, and voluntarily excluded, as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the department or agency to which this proposal is being submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.**
- 6. The prospective primary participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency entering into this transaction.**
- 7. The prospective primary participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include the clause titled ``Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transaction," provided by the department or**

agency entering into this covered transaction, without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.

8. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Nonprocurement Programs.

9. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

10. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 6 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency may terminate this transaction for cause or default.

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters--Primary Covered Transactions

(1) The prospective primary participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:

(a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded by any Federal department or agency;

(b) Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;

(c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1)(b) of this certification; and

(d) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.

(2) Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion--Lower Tier Covered Transactions

Instructions for Certification

1. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out below.
2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.
3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or had become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
4. The terms covered transaction, debarred, suspended, ineligible, lower tier covered transaction, participant, person, primary covered transaction, principal, proposal, and voluntarily excluded, as used in this clause, have the meaning set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the person to which this proposal is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.
- 5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, [[Page 33043]] should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.**
- 6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include this clause titled ``Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transaction," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.**
- 7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Nonprocurement Programs.**
- 8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is**

normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility an Voluntary Exclusion--Lower Tier Covered Transactions

(1) The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.

(2) Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

✓ By checking this box, the prospective primary participant is providing the certification set out above.

Section 19: Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements

This certification is required by the regulations implementing the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988: 45 CFR Part 76, Subpart, F. Sections 76.630(c) and (d)(2) and 76.645(a)(1) and (b) provide that a Federal agency may designate a central receipt point for STATE-WIDE AND STATE AGENCY-WIDE certifications, and for notification of criminal drug convictions. For the Department of Health and Human Services, the central pint is: Division of Grants Management and Oversight, Office of Management and Acquisition, Department of Health and Human Services, Room 517-D, 200 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20201.

Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (Instructions for Certification)

- 1. By signing and/or submitting this application or grant agreement, the grantee is providing the certification set out below.**
- 2. The certification set out below is a material representation of fact upon which reliance is placed when the agency awards the grant. If it is later determined that the grantee knowingly rendered a false certification, or otherwise violates the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act, the agency, in addition to any other remedies available to the Federal Government, may take action authorized under the Drug-Free Workplace Act.**
- 3. For grantees other than individuals, Alternate I applies.**
- 4. For grantees who are individuals, Alternate II applies.**
- 5. Workplaces under grants, for grantees other than individuals, need not be identified on the certification. If known, they may be identified in the grant application. If the grantee does not identify the workplaces at the time of application, or upon award, if there is no application, the grantee must keep the identity of the workplace(s) on file in its office and make the information available for Federal inspection. Failure to identify all known workplaces constitutes a violation of the grantee's drug-free workplace requirements.**
- 6. Workplace identifications must include the actual address of buildings (or parts of buildings) or other sites where work under the grant takes place. Categorical descriptions may be used (e.g., all vehicles of a mass transit authority or State highway department while in operation, State employees in each local unemployment office, performers in concert halls or radio studios).**
- 7. If the workplace identified to the agency changes during the performance of the grant, the grantee shall inform the agency of the change(s), if it previously identified the workplaces in question (see paragraph five).**
- 8. Definitions of terms in the Nonprocurement Suspension and Debarment common rule and Drug-Free Workplace common rule apply to this certification. Grantees' attention is called, in particular, to the following definitions from these rules:**

***Controlled substance* means a controlled substance in Schedules I through V of the**

Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812) and as further defined by regulation (21 CFR 1308.11 through 1308.15);

Conviction means a finding of guilt (including a plea of nolo contendere) or imposition of sentence, or both, by any judicial body charged with the responsibility to determine violations of the Federal or State criminal drug statutes;

Criminal drug statute means a Federal or non-Federal criminal statute involving the manufacture, distribution, dispensing, use, or possession of any controlled substance;

Employee means the employee of a grantee directly engaged in the performance of work under a grant, including: (i) All direct charge employees; (ii) All indirect charge employees unless their impact or involvement is insignificant to the performance of the grant; and, (iii) Temporary personnel and consultants who are directly engaged in the performance of work under the grant and who are on the grantee's payroll. This definition does not include workers not on the payroll of the grantee (e.g., volunteers, even if used to meet a matching requirement; consultants or independent contractors not on the grantee's payroll; or employees of subrecipients or subcontractors in covered workplaces).

Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements

Alternate I. (Grantees Other Than Individuals)

The grantee certifies that it will or will continue to provide a drug-free workplace by:

- (a) Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the grantee's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of such prohibition;
- (b) Establishing an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about --
 - (1) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
 - (2) The grantee's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
 - (3) Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
 - (4) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace;**
- c) Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the grant be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph (a);**
- (d) Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph (a) that, as a condition of employment under the grant, the employee will --**
 - (1) Abide by the terms of the statement; and**
 - (2) Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction;**
- (e) Notifying the agency in writing, within ten calendar days after receiving notice under paragraph (d)(2) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such conviction. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice, including position title, to every grant officer or other designee on whose grant activity the convicted employee was working, unless the Federal agency has designated a central point for the receipt of such notices. Notice shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant;**
- (f) Taking one of the following actions, within 30 calendar days of receiving notice under paragraph (d)(2), with respect to any employee who is so convicted --**
 - (1) Taking appropriate**

personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or
(2) Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a Federal, State, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;
(g) Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f).
(B) The grantee may insert in the space provided below the site(s) for the performance of work done in connection with the specific grant:

Place of Performance (Street address, city, county, state, zip code)

301 Centennial Mall South
*** Address Line 1**

Address Line 2

Address Line 3

Lincoln
*** City**

NE
*** State**

68509
*** Zip Code**

Check if there are workplaces on file that are not identified here.

Alternate II. (Grantees Who Are Individuals)

(a) The grantee certifies that, as a condition of the grant, he or she will not engage in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance in conducting any activity with the grant;

(b) If convicted of a criminal drug offense resulting from a violation occurring during the conduct of any grant activity, he or she will report the conviction, in writing, within 10 calendar days of the conviction, to every grant officer or other designee, unless the Federal agency designates a central point for the receipt of such notices. When notice is made to such a central point, it shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant.

[55 FR 21690, 21702, May 25, 1990]

✓ By checking this box, the prospective primary participant is providing the certification set out above.

Section 20: Certification Regarding Lobbying

The submitter of this application certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

✓ By checking this box, the prospective primary participant is providing the certification set out above.

Assurances

Assurances

(1) use the funds available under this title to--

(A) conduct outreach activities and provide assistance to low income households in meeting their home energy costs, particularly those with the lowest incomes that pay a high proportion of household income for home energy, consistent with paragraph (5);

(B) intervene in energy crisis situations;

(C) provide low-cost residential weatherization and other cost-effective energy-related home repair;and

(D)plan, develop, and administer the State's program under this title including leveraging programs, and the State agrees not to use such funds for any purposes other than those specified in this title;

(2) make payments under this title only with respect to--

(A) households in which one or more individuals are receiving--

(i)assistance under the State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act;

(ii) supplemental security income payments under title XVI of the Social Security Act;

(iii) food stamps under the Food Stamp Act of 1977; or

(iv) payments under section 415, 521, 541, or 542 of title 38, United States Code, or under section 306 of the Veterans' and Survivors' Pension Improvement Act of 1978; or

(B) households with incomes which do not exceed the greater of -

(i) an amount equal to 150 percent of the poverty level for such State; or

(ii) an amount equal to 60 percent of the State median income;

(except that a State may not exclude a household from eligibility in a fiscal year solely on the basis of household income if such income is less than 110 percent of the poverty level for such State, but the State may give priority to those households with the highest home energy costs or needs in relation to household income.

(3) conduct outreach activities designed to assure that eligible households, especially households with elderly individuals or disabled individuals, or both, and households with high home energy burdens, are made aware of the assistance available under this title, and any similar energy-related assistance available under subtitle B of title VI (relating to community services block grant program) or under any other provision of law which carries out programs which were administered under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 before the date of the enactment of this Act;(4) coordinate its activities under this title with similar and related programs administered by the Federal Government and such State, particularly low-income energy-related programs under subtitle B of title VI (relating to community services block grant program), under the supplemental security income program, under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act, under title XX of the Social Security Act, under the low-income weatherization assistance program under title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act, or under any other provision of law which carries out programs which were administered under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 before the date of the enactment of this Act;(5) provide, in a timely manner, that the highest level of assistance will be furnished to those households which have the lowest incomes and the highest energy costs or needs in relation to income, taking into account family size, except that the State may not differentiate in implementing this section between the households described in clauses 2(A) and 2(B) of this subsection;

(6) to the extent it is necessary to designate local administrative agencies in order to carry out the purposes of this title, to give special consideration, in the designation of such agencies, to any local public or private nonprofit agency which was receiving Federal funds under any low-income energy assistance program or weatherization program under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 or any other provision of law on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, except that -

(A) the State shall, before giving such special consideration, determine that the agency involved meets program and fiscal requirements established by the State; and

(B) if there is no such agency because of any change in the assistance furnished to programs for economically disadvantaged persons, then the State shall give special consideration in the designation of local administrative agencies to any successor agency which is operated in substantially the same manner as the predecessor agency which did receive funds for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the determination is made;

(7) if the State chooses to pay home energy suppliers directly, establish procedures to --

(A) notify each participating household of the amount of assistance paid on its behalf;

(B) assure that the home energy supplier will charge the eligible household, in the normal billing process, the difference between the actual cost of the home energy and the amount of the payment made by the State under this title;

(C) assure that the home energy supplier will provide assurances that any agreement entered into with a home energy supplier under this paragraph will contain provisions to assure that no household receiving assistance under this title will be treated adversely because of such assistance under applicable provisions of State law or public regulatory requirements; and

(D) ensure that the provision of vendor payments remains at the option of the State in consultation with local grantees and may be contingent on unregulated vendors taking appropriate measures to alleviate the energy burdens of eligible households, including providing for agreements between suppliers and individuals eligible for benefits under this Act that seek to reduce home energy costs, minimize the risks of home energy crisis, and encourage regular payments by individuals receiving financial assistance for home energy costs;

(8) provide assurances that,

(A) the State will not exclude households described in clause (2)(B) of this subsection from receiving home energy assistance benefits under clause (2), and

(B) the State will treat owners and renters equitably under the program assisted under this title;

(9) provide that--

(A) the State may use for planning and administering the use of funds under this title an amount not to exceed 10 percent of the funds payable to such State under this title for a fiscal year; and

(B) the State will pay from non-Federal sources the remaining costs of planning and administering the program assisted under this title and will not use Federal funds for such remaining cost (except for the costs of the activities described in paragraph (16));

(10) provide that such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures will be established as may be necessary to assure the proper disbursement of and accounting for Federal funds paid to the State under this title, including procedures for monitoring the assistance provided under this title, and provide that the State will comply with the provisions of chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as the "Single Audit Act");

(11) permit and cooperate with Federal investigations undertaken in accordance with section 2608;

(12) provide for timely and meaningful public participation in the development of the plan described in subsection (c);

(13) provide an opportunity for a fair administrative hearing to individuals whose claims for assistance under the plan described in subsection (c) are denied or are not acted upon with reasonable promptness; and

(14) cooperate with the Secretary with respect to data collecting and reporting under section 2610.

(15) * beginning in fiscal year 1992, provide, in addition to such services as may be offered by State Departments of Public Welfare at the local level, outreach and intake functions for crisis situations and heating and cooling assistance that is administered by additional State and local governmental entities or community-based organizations (such as community action agencies, area agencies on aging and not-for-profit neighborhood-based organizations), and in States where such organizations do not administer functions as of September 30, 1991, preference in awarding grants or contracts for intake services shall be provided to those agencies that administer the low-income weatherization or energy crisis intervention programs.

*** This assurance is applicable only to States, and to territories whose annual regular LIHEAP allotments exceed \$200,000. Neither territories with annual allotments of \$200,000 or less nor Indian tribes/tribal organizations are subject to Assurance 15.**

(16) use up to 5 percent of such funds, at its option, to provide services that encourage and enable households to reduce their home energy needs and thereby the need for energy assistance, including needs assessments, counseling, and assistance with energy vendors, and report to the Secretary concerning the impact of such activities on the number of households served, the level of direct benefits provided to those households, and the number of households that remain unserved.

Plan Attachments

PLAN ATTACHMENTS

The following documents must be attached to this application

- **Delegation Letter is required if someone other than the Governor or Chairman Certified this Report.**
- **Heating component benefit matrix, if applicable**
- **Cooling component benefit matrix, if applicable**
- **Minutes, notes, or transcripts of public hearing(s).**