

Joe Lombardo  
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS  
Director



**DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
DIVISION OF WELFARE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES  
*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



Robert Thompson  
Administrator

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**AGENDA**

- Date of Publication:** May 30, 2023
- Date and Time of Meeting:** June 29, 2023 @ 10:30 AM PST - 12:00 PM PST
- Name of Organization:** Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
- Place of Meeting:**
- 1470 College Parkway, Carson City, NV 89706; Fisher Conference Room
  - 701 N. Rancho Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89106; Great Room

Note: *If at any time during the meeting an individual who has been named on the agenda or has an item specifically regarding them included on the agenda is unable to participate because of technical or other difficulties, please email Trenton Sheesley at [TSheesley@dwss.nv.gov](mailto:TSheesley@dwss.nv.gov), and note at what time the difficulty started so that matters pertaining specifically to their participation may be continued to a future agenda if needed or otherwise addressed.*

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- Event Number:**
- 418 144 255#

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# AGENDA

1. **Introduction:** Kelly Cantrell, Deputy Administrator
2. **General Public Comments** (Because of time considerations, the period for public comment by each speaker or organization may be limited to three minutes and speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers.) *No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.*
3. **For possible action:** Discussion and possible adoption of the FY 2024 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) State Plan – Maria Wortman-Meshberger and Tamera Saida

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provides federal block grant funds to states that administer a Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The benefit program year begins July 1, 2023. An FFY 2024 state plan is necessary to delineate the program benefits, eligibility criteria, available emergency/crisis assistance, and other policy in the Energy Assistance Program (EAP), administered by the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), administered by the Housing Division. States must submit a State Plan to DHHS annually, which serves as an application for funds.

- A. The LIHEAP State Plan draft with the proposed changes will be available for review on the Division’s website at <http://dwss.nv.gov> no later than five days before the Public Hearing. The following is a summary of the proposed changes:
  - The program year and other relevant dates will be updated throughout the document.
  - Minor text changes intended to clarify existing policy have been incorporated throughout the document.
  - Under Section 1.9- *Applicable form of countable information to determine a household’s income eligibility for LIHEAP:* changed to not include Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits towards eligibility income.
  - Under Section 2.2- *Do you have additional requirements for Heating Assistance?:* changed the verification requirement when a utility bill is not in the applicant’s name. The proposed verbiage is:
    - 2.2 (1) Identification of the applicant is required. If the utility bills are not in the applicant’s name a statement from the individual named on the utility bill(s) with their address and phone number will be required. If the name on the utility bill is a property management company, a letter written by the property manager on the company’s letterhead with their address and phone number will be required.
  - Under Section 2.3- *Check the appropriate boxes for the asset test, additional/differing eligibility policies and priority eligibility policies.:* changed the eligibility requirement for renters living in subsidized/public housing with utilities included in the rent with an energy burden. The proposed verbiage is:
    - 2.3 (1) Renters living in subsidized/public housing where all utilities are included in the rent, and they are not billed separately for their energy cost are ineligible for an EAP benefit unless they have an energy burden.

- Under Section 4.1 – *Designate the income eligibility threshold used for the crisis component*: changed the eligibility guidelines to follow the Department of Energy (DOE) eligibility guidelines and allow the eligibility threshold to be 200% of poverty instead of 150% of poverty to align the eligibility thresholds for the Weatherization Assistance Program.
- Under Section 5.1 – *Designate the income eligibility threshold used for the Weatherization component*: changed the eligibility guidelines to follow the Department of Energy (DOE) eligibility guidelines and allow the eligibility threshold to be 200% of poverty instead of 150% of poverty to align the eligibility thresholds for the Weatherization Assistance Program.
- Under Section 5.5 – *Under what rules do you administer LIHEAP weatherization; Other: Describe*: changed the eligibility threshold for the weatherization program. The proposed verbiage is:
  - Allowable countable income is based on DOE rules. DOE allows 200% of poverty therefore the eligibility threshold for LIHEAP households will be at or below 200% of the poverty level or the eligibility threshold determined by the DOE Secretary if a higher eligibility threshold is determined necessary. The DOE average cost per unit is not applicable because most projects require additional weatherization measures exceeding this limit. A figure of \$8,000 will be used.
- Under Section 5.7- *Do you have additional/differing eligibility for*: change the eligibility to allow a multifamily building to be weatherized if households in at least 66% of the dwelling units in the building or 50% of the dwelling units in a building with less than 5 units meet the WAP eligibility requirements.
- Under Section 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*: added the state audit findings and the action taken to resolve the finding.
- Under Section 10.6- *Explain or attach a copy of your local agency monitoring schedule and protocol*: changed to include training staff as allowable staff to complete staff performance case reviews.

B. Public comment on proposed changes

C. Adoption of proposed changes

### Entities Financially Affected:

- The Energy Assistance Program is solely funded by the federal LIHEAP block grant and the Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation.
- The Weatherization Assistance Program is primarily funded by the Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation.

### Anticipated financial impact on local government:

- There is no financial impact upon local government.

**Effective date:** July 1, 2023

4. **For possible action:** Discussion and possible adoption of the FY 2024 Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation State Plan– Maria Wortman-Meshberger and Tamera Saida

The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, and the Department of Business and Industry, Housing Division are required under Nevada Revised Statute 702.280 to jointly establish an annual plan.

- A. The Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation State Plan draft with the proposed changes will be available for review on the Division’s website at <http://dwss.nv.gov> no later than five days before the Public Hearing. The following is a summary of the proposed changes:
- The program year and other relevant dates will be updated throughout the document.
  - Minor text changes intended to clarify existing policy have been incorporated throughout the document.
  - *Under Section 8 Client Eligibility:* changed the verification requirement when a utility bill is not in the applicant’s name and allow applicants living in subsidized housing with an energy burden to potentially be eligible for the program. The proposed verbiage is:
    - 8.1.4 c. - Identification of the applicant is required. If the utility bills are not in the applicant’s name a statement from the individual named on the utility bill(s) with their address and phone number will be required. If the name on the utility bill is a property management company, a letter written by the property manager on the company’s letterhead with their address and phone number will be required. Hardship exception may be approved by the Chief of Employment and Support Services.
    - 8.1.7 -Households residing in subsidized housing, as defined in Section 2.39, are excluded from receiving energy assistance unless they have an energy burden.
- B. Public comment on proposed changes
- C. Adoption of proposed changes

### Entities Financially Affected:

- Nevada Revised Statutes, Chapter 702, established a Universal Energy Charge (UEC), which utilities collect from retail customers of electricity and natural gas. These funds are collected by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) and deposited in the Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation. Up to 3% of UEC monies collected may be retained by the PUCN for administration costs; the remainder is distributed to the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (75%) and the Housing Division (25%).

The PUC estimates \$14.4 million in UEC revenues for SFY 2024.

### Anticipated financial impact on local government:

- There is no financial impact upon local government.

**Effective date:** July 1, 2023

5. **General Public Comments** (Because of time considerations, the period for public comment by each speaker or organization may be limited to three minutes and speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers.) *No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.*

### 6. Adjournment

PLEASE NOTE: Items may be taken out of order. Items may be pulled or removed from the agenda at any time. All public comments may be limited to three minutes.

This notice and agenda have been posted online at <http://dwss.nv.gov> and <http://notice.nv.gov>. E-mail notice has been made to such individuals as have requested notice of meetings to request notifications please contact Trenton Sheesley at [TSheesley@dwss.nv.gov](mailto:TSheesley@dwss.nv.gov), or at 2505 Chandler Avenue Suite 1 Las Vegas, NV 89120.

If you require a physical copy of supporting material for the public meeting, please contact Trenton Sheesley by email at [tsheesley@dwss.nv.gov](mailto:tsheesley@dwss.nv.gov). A draft of the proposed State Plans can be found online at <http://dwss.nv.gov> no later than 5 days before the public hearing.

**Mailing Date:** May 30, 2023

**Public Hearing Posting Locations:**

- Division of Public and Behavioral Health 4150 Technology Way, Carson City
- Division of Welfare and Supportive Services-PDC 701 N. Rancho Drive, Las Vegas
- Division of Welfare and Supportive Services-CCAO 1470 College Parkway, Carson City
- Division of Welfare and Supportive Services-Elko 1020 Ruby Vista Drive #101, Elko
- Division of Welfare and Supportive Services-Reno 4055 S. Virginia Street, Reno
- Division of Welfare and Supportive Services-Flamingo 3330 E. Flamingo Ste 55, Las Vegas
- Division of Welfare and Supportive Services-Belrose 700 Belrose Street, Las Vegas
- Carson City Library 900 N. Roop Street, Carson City
- Churchill County Library 553 South Main Street, Fallon
- Clark County District Library 1401 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas
- Douglas County Library 1625 Library Lane, Minden
- Elko County Library 720 Court Street, Elko
- Esmeralda County Library Corner of Crook & 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Goldfield
- Eureka Branch Library 80 South Monroe Street, Eureka
- Henderson District Public Library 280 S. Green Valley Pkwy, Henderson
- Humboldt County Library 85 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Winnemucca
- Lander County Library 625 South Broad Street, Battle Mountain
- Lincoln County Library 93 Maine Street, Pioche
- Lyon County Library 20 Nevin Way, Yerington
- Mineral County Library 110 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Hawthorne
- Pahrump Library District 701 E. Street, Pahrump
- Pershing County Library 1125 Central Avenue, Lovelock
- Storey County Library 175 Carson Street, Virginia City
- Tonopah Public Library 167 Central Street, Tonopah
- Washoe County Library 301 South Center Street, Reno

**Note: Written comments on any agenda items are respectfully requested to be submitted to the Division via email, mail or fax listed below, five (5) calendar days prior to the meeting to ensure that adequate consideration is given to the material. We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public with a disability and wish to participate. If accommodated arrangements are necessary, notify DWSS as soon as possible and at least ten days in advance of the meeting, by e-mail at Trenton Sheesley at [TSheesley@dwss.nv.gov](mailto:TSheesley@dwss.nv.gov).**

All persons that have requested in writing to receive the Public Hearings Agenda have been duly notified by mail or e-mail.