



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



NEVADA STATE DIVISION OF WELFARE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Energy Assistance and Conservation

Date: June 30, 2021

Time: 9:01 AM

1. **Call to Order Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator:** June 30, 2021 – 9:05 a.m.

2. **Introduction/Purpose: Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator**

Robert Thompson: The Division of Welfare and Supportive Services has scheduled a Public Hearing to discuss the possible adoption of the proposed amendments to both the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Energy Assistance and Conservation State Plan, as indicated on the agenda.

This hearing is being conducted both in person (locations listed below) and virtually. This hearing was noticed in accordance with Nevada Open Meeting Law and posted at the locations listed on the agenda, as well as the Division's website and the State of Nevada Public Notices website.

- i. Welfare and Supportive Services, Professional Development Center, 701 N. Rancho Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- ii. Welfare and Supportive Services, Central Office, 1470 College Parkway, Carson City, Nevada.

3. **General Public Comment: Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator**

Mr. Robert Thompson explained that Item 2 on the agenda is for general public comment. No action may be taken upon a matter raised, until the matter has been specifically added to the agenda. Comments are limited to 3 minutes. I will ask that all callers/speakers please state and spell your name clearly for the record.

- i. No public comments presented in person, telephonically or virtually.

4. **For possible action Agenda Items 3A: Maria Wortman-Meshberger, Social Services Chief, Employment and Supportive Services**

Maria Wortman-Meshberger explained the proposed changes for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 LIHEAP State Plan:

1. The program year and other relevant dates will be updated throughout the document.
2. Minor text changes intended to clarify existing policy have been incorporated throughout the document.
3. Under Section 2.3 and 4.7- *'Do you give priority in eligibility to': changed from "2 to 5 months" to "6 months" and removed "that equals at least 15 percent of the gross household income"*. The proposed verbiage is as follows:

- A. Fast-Track Component provides expedited application processing for eligible households whose energy source is in danger of being interrupted. Specific eligibility criteria must be met to qualify. In addition to other qualifying criteria, the household must have experienced an unexpected loss or reduction of income during the last 6 months.

- 4. Patrick Conway, Weatherization Program Supervisor, Housing Division presented the proposed Weatherization Assistance Program changes to the FY2022 LIHEAP State Plan:
 - A. In Section 5.5 it states, “*What rules do you administer LIHEAP Weatherization?*” There is a subsection with checkboxes and this year we checked the following boxes:
 - i. Weatherization not subject to DOE (Department of Energy) WAP (Weatherization Assistance Program) maximum statewide average cost per dwelling unit. (This was done because the DOE limit is too low to be practical any more due to the high cost of construction.)
 - ii. Weatherization measures are not subject to DOE Saving to Investment Ratio (SIR) standard. (This was changed because we are using the State standard for the Fund for Energy for Assistance and Conservation (FEAC), which is more flexible.)
 - iii. Under Other description section we added the following language in support of these changes:
 - a. The DOE average cost per unit is not applicable because most projects require additional weatherization measures exceeding this limit. A figure of \$8,000.00 will be used.
 - b. The FEAC eligibility list is used instead of an SIR for weatherization measures.
 - c. In Section 5.11, it states, “*What IHEAP weatherization measures do you provide?*” under Other Description, we added new this year Storm Doors as an additional energy saving measure.

5. Agenda Item 3B: Public Comment: Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator:

Robert Thompson: Item 3B on the agenda is for public comment regarding the proposed FY2022 LIHEAP State plan. No action may be taken upon a matter raised until the matter has been specifically added to the agenda. Comments are limited to 3 minutes. I will ask that all callers/speakers please state and spell your name clearly for the record.

- i. No public comments presented in person, telephonically or virtually.

6. Agenda Item 3C: Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator

Robert Thompson: Not seeing any comments virtually or in person, I will adopt the FY2022 LIHEAP State Plan, Agenda Item 3A, on behalf of the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, effective July 1, 2021.

7. Agenda Item 4: Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator

Robert Thompson: Maria Wortman-Meshberger, Social Services Chief, Employment and Supportive Services will now present the Energy Assistance Program FY2022 Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation State Plan changes.

Maria Wortman-Meshberger explained the proposed changes for the FY2022 Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation State Plan:

- 1. The program year and other relevant dates will be updated throughout the document.
- 2. Minor text changes intended to clarify existing policy have been incorporated throughout the document.

3. Under Section 11 Provision of Emergency Assistance, change/remove—11.1.1 Fast-Track Component proposed verbiage:
 - a. Number 3. The household must have experienced an unexpected loss or reduction of income during the last 6 months.
 - b. Number 4. Households are ineligible for Fast-Track assistance if they:
 1. received FastTrack assistance in the previous EAP program year, or
 2. received arrearage assistance in the last five years, unless there are extenuating circumstances, e.g., terminal illness, car accident, etc.
4. Patrick Conway, Weatherization Program Supervisor, Housing Division presented the proposed Weatherization Assistance Program changes to the Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation State Plan.
 - a. In Section 10.2.6, the average cost per household to weatherize a unit increased from the DOE limit of \$7,669.00 to \$8,000.00.
 - b. In Section 10.2.15, clarification was added to Service Area 1 and 5, as both are served by Nevada Rural Housing Authority. Services Area 1, the North Las Vegas and Northern Rural Clark County we added Las Vegas to Nevada Rural Housing Authority. Service Area 5, the Western Rural Counties, we added Carson City to Nevada Rural Housing Authority to distinguish between the two office locations.

8. **Agenda Item 4B: Public Comment: Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator:**

Robert Thompson: Item 4B on the agenda is for public comment regarding the proposed FY2022 Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation State Plan. No action may be taken upon a matter raised until the matter has been specifically added to the agenda. Comments are limited to 3 minutes. I will ask that all callers/speakers please state and spell your name clearly for the record.

- i. No public comments presented in person, telephonically or virtually.

9. **Agenda Item 4C: Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator**

Robert Thompson: Not seeing any comments, I will adopt the FY2022 Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation State Plan, Item 4A on the agenda, on behalf of the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, effective July 1, 2021.

Mr. Robert Thompson indicated that if there were no other public comments, the hearing would be closed.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:11 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Kareen Filippi, Executive Assistant, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services.