NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

AGENDA

Date of Publication: May 28, 2021
Date and Time of Meeting: June 30, 2021 9:00 am - Adjournment
Name of Organization: Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
Place of Meeting:
  o 1470 College Parkway, Carson City, NV 89706; Room 149
  o 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 Kareen Filippi at kefilippi@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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AGENDA

1. **Introduction:** Robert Thompson, 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 2022 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) State Plan – Maria Wortman-Meshberger and Patrick Conway

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, 2021. An FFY 2022 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 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:
  - 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.
- Under Section 5.5- ‘What rules do you administer LIHEAP Weatherization?’ in addition to Income Threshold and Other, also checked:
  - X Weatherization not subject to DOE WAP maximum statewide cost per dwelling unit.
  - X Weatherization measures are not subject to DOE Savings to Investment Ration (SIR) standards.
Under Other added:

The DOE average cost per unit is not applicable because most projects require additional weatherization measures exceeding this limit. A figure $8,000 will be used. The FEAC eligibility list is used instead of an SIR for weatherization measures.

Under Section 5.11 ‘What LIHEAP weatherization measures do you provide?’ Under Other-Describe added:

Storm Doors

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, 2021

4. For possible action: Discussion and possible adoption of the FY 2022 Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation State Plan—Maria Wortman-Meshberger and Patrick Conway

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. A 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:

  o The program year and other relevant dates will be updated throughout the document.
  o Minor text changes intended to clarify existing policy have been incorporated throughout the document.
  o Under Section 11 Provision of Emergency Assistance, change/remove—11.1.1 Fast-Track Component proposed verbiage:

    • 3. The household must have experienced an unexpected loss or reduction of income during the last 6 months.
4. Households are ineligible for Fast-Track assistance if they 1) received Fast-Track 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.

   o **Under Section 10 Program Benefits**
   - 10.2.6 -- Increase the average per household expenditure from $7,669 to $8,000.
   - 10.2.15 -- Service Area 1 (North Las Vegas and Northern Rural Clark County) - Nevada Rural Housing Authority-Las Vegas, Service Area 5 (Western Rural Counties) – Nevada Rural Housing Authority-Carson City

   A. Public comment on proposed changes

   B. 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 $13.7 million in UEC revenues for SFY 2022.

**Anticipated financial impact on local government:**

- There is no financial impact upon local government

**Effective date:** July 1, 2021

5. **Adjournment**

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

This notice and agenda have been posted online at [http://dwss.nv.gov](http://dwss.nv.gov) and [http://notice.nv.gov](http://notice.nv.gov). E-mail notice has been made to such individuals as have requested notice of meetings to request notifications please contact Kareen Filippi at kefilippi@dwss.nv.gov, or at 1470 East College Parkway, Carson City, NV 89706.

If you require a physical copy of supporting material for the public meeting, please contact Kareen Filippi at 775-684-0504 or by email at kefilippi@dwss.nv.gov. A draft of the proposed State Plans can be found online at [http://dwss.nv.gov](http://dwss.nv.gov) no later than 5 days before the public hearing.
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-CO 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 & 4th Street Goldfield
- Eureka Branch Library 80 South Monroe Street Eureka
- Henderson District Public Library 280 South Green Valley Pkwy Henderson
- Humboldt County Library 85 E. 5th 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 1st Street Hawthorne
- Pahrump Library District 701 E. Street Pahrump
- Pershing County Library 1125 Central Avenue Lovelock
- Storey County Library 95 South R 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 Kareen Filippi at kefilippi@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.