

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

AGENDA

- Date of Publication:** May 13, 2024
- Date and Time of Meeting:** June 14th, 2024 @ 1:00 PM PST - Adjournment
- Name of Organization:** Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
- Place of Meeting:**
- 1470 College Parkway, Carson City, NV 89706; Room 149
 - 701 N. Rancho Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89106; Conference 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 Kristle Muessle at kmuessle@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.*

- Webinar:** **MICROSOFT TEAMS**
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- Audio Only:**
- +1 775-321-6111,,36316655 United States, Reno
 - Phone Conference ID: 363 166 55#

- Event Number:**
- 363 166 55#

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AGENDA

1. **Introduction:** Kelly Cantrelle, 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 2025 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, 2024. An FFY 2025 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.
 - The minimum annual payment will be changed from \$240 to \$360 throughout the document.
 - 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 5.7 – *Do you have additional or differing eligibility policies for:* The proposed verbiage is:
 - If utility usage is unable to be verified for the applicant, the household is not eligible to receive Weatherization services.
 - Under Section 6 – *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.* The proposed verbiage is:
 - The Energy Assistance Program has a web page on the Division’s website and some energy vendors have the program information and links to the Division website on their websites.
 - Under Section 7 – *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.* The proposed verbiage is:

- 2. Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) - A list of eligible EAP households can be provided to the Housing Division's WAP, to notify the EAP of high energy usage households.
 - Under Section 10.3- *Describe any audit findings of the grant recipient (i.e., state, tribe, territory) rising to the level of a material weakness or reportable condition cited in the single audits, inspector general reviews, or other government agency reviews from the most recently audited fiscal year.:* added the audit findings and the action taken to resolve the finding.

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, 2024

4. **For possible action:** Discussion and possible adoption of the FY 2025 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.
 - The minimum annual payment will be changed from \$240 to \$360 throughout the document.
 - *Under Section 8.1.8:* The proposed verbiage is: Households with a solar vendor who meet the income criteria may be eligible for a fixed annual credit of \$360 for that vendor unless they have had solar for at least 9 months and have a higher 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 \$14.6 million in UEC revenues for SFY 2025.

Anticipated financial impact on local government:

- There is no financial impact upon local government.

Effective date: July 1, 2024

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 Kristle Muessle at kmuessle@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 Kristle Muessle by email at kmuessle@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 13, 2024

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 & 4th 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. 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 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 [Kristle Muessle at kmuessle@dwss.nv.gov](mailto:kmuessle@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.