

Steve Sisolak
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.



Steve H. Fisher
Administrator

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

AGENDA

Date of Publication: April 15, 2021

Date and Time of Meeting: May 27, 2021 at 9:00 am - Adjournment

Name of Organization: Division of Welfare and Supportive Services

Place of Meeting: Please use the **Microsoft TEAMS** options provided below. If accommodations are requested, please advise using the information at the end of this agenda. Out of deference to Declaration of Emergency Directive 006 from the State of Nevada Executive Department signed by Governor Sisolak on March 22, 2020 as well as Emergency Directive 003 signed March 20, 2020, a physical location will not be open to the public for attendance at this time.

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 Karen 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.

Webinar: Join on your computer or mobile app [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Join with a video conferencing device [105936574@teams.bjn.vc](#)

- Video Conference ID: 118 622 391 0

[Alternate VTC dialing instructions](#)

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Event Number: 485 480 941#

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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 2021 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) State Plan to include a proposed amendment to Section 4.8 regarding handling crisis situations – Maria Wortman-Meshberger

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, 2020. An FFY 2021 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 State Plan amendments to DHHS.

- A. The LIHEAP State Plan draft with the proposed amendment 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 amendment:
 - Under Section 4.8 – *How do you handle crisis situation? and Attachment for Section 4: Crisis Assistance*
 - Under 'Other' add -- **or to reduce or eliminate the energy burden to optimize the assistance provided to eligible households based on projected caseload, available program funding, and/or circumstances that warrant an adjustment (e.g., moratoriums on utility payments, etc.)**
- B. Public comment on proposed amendment
- C. Adoption of proposed amendment

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, 2020

4. **For possible action:** Discussion and possible adoption of the FY 2021 Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation State Plan to include a proposed amendment to Section 2.2 regarding Arrearage Payments along with Section 11.1 and 11.1.3 regarding Emergency Assistance— Maria Wortman-Meshberger.

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 amendment 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 amendment:
- *Under Section 2 Other Definitions*
 - 2.2 Amendment—Arrearage Payment Component definition to include **and to reduce or eliminate the energy burden to optimize the assistance provided to eligible households based on projected caseload, available program funding, and/or circumstances that warrant an adjustment (e.g., moratoriums on utility payments, etc.)**
 - *Under Section 11 Provision of Emergency Assistance*
 - **11.1 and 11.1.3 Amendment to add and to reduce or eliminate the energy burden to optimize the assistance provided to eligible households based on projected caseload, available program funding, and/or circumstances that warrant an adjustment (e.g., moratoriums on utility payments, etc.)**
 - B. Public comment on proposed amendment
 - C. Adoption of proposed amendment

11.1.13.4 Amended to add Exception see 11.1 and 11.1.3.

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%).

Anticipated financial impact on local government:

- There is no financial impact upon local government

Effective date: July 1, 2020

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> 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 Karen Filippi at kefilippi@dwss.nv.gov, or at 1470 East College Parkway, Carson City, NV 89706. At this time, in deference to Emergency Directive 006 dated March 22, 2020 and related directives which have discouraged certain in-person activities, notice has not been posted at other physical locations.

If you require a physical copy of supporting material for the public meeting, please contact Karen Filippi at kefilippi@dwss.nv.gov. A draft of the proposed FY 2021 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) State Plan and FY 2021 Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation State Plan can be found online at <http://dwss.nv.gov> no later than 5 days before the public hearing.

Note: 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 Karen Filippi at kefilippi@dwss.nv.gov.

Per Nevada Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 3: The requirements contained in NRS 241.020 (4)(a) that public notice agendas be posted at physical locations within the State of Nevada are suspended.

Per Nevada Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 4: Public bodies must still comply with requirements in NRS 241.020 (4)(b) and NRS 241.020 (4)(c) that public notice agendas be posted to Nevada's notice website and the public body's website, if it maintains one along with providing a copy to any person who has requested one via U.S. mail or electronic mail.

Per Nevada Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 5: The requirement contained in NRS 241.020 (3)(c) that physical locations be available for the public to receive supporting material for public meetings is suspended.

Per Nevada Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 6: If a public body holds a meeting and does not provide a physical location where supporting material is available to the public, the public body must provide on its public notice agenda the name and contact information for the person designated by the public body from whom a member of the public may request supporting material electronically and must post supporting material to the public body's website, if it maintains one.

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