

Alaska Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Model Plan Proposed Revisions for FY26

Non-substantive changes, such as formatting and language revisions, are not included. All instances of “FY25” are changed to “FY26” in the draft document.

Section	Subsection	Proposed Revision
Section 1 – Program Components	1.1 – Dates of Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised year-round crisis assistance to winter crisis assistance, with dates of program operation from October 1st – September 30th to October 1st – June 30th. Added an explanation that dates of program component operations are subject to the availability of funds.
Section 1 – Program Components	1.2 – Estimated Funding Allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised “year-round crisis assistance” percentage from 7% to 0% and “winter crisis assistance” from 0% to 7%, in response to changes in Section 1.1. Percentages are based on the FY2025 Grantee Survey.
Section 1 – Program Components	1.3 – Alternate Use of Crisis Assistance Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised the timeline for crisis applications to align with the extended winter crisis season.
Section 1 – Program Components	1.4a – Categorical Eligibility Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed Adult Public Assistance (APA) benefits as a Categorical Eligibility qualifier after receiving clarification from the ACF that it is not allowable.

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Section 1 – Program Components	1.9 – Select all the applicable forms of countable income used to determine a household’s income eligibility for LIHEAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added “Strike Pay” as a countable income type to align with Division of Public Assistance (DPA) heating assistance policy.• Added “Other” to clarify types of countable income.
Section 1 – Program Components	1.10 – Online Application Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revised the online application go-live date from October 2024 to October 2025.
Section 2 – Heating Assistance	2.3 – Additional Eligibility Requirements for Heating Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removed priority allowing vulnerable population applicants to be moved to the front of the processing queue to align with 7 AAC 44.080.• Added statement that vulnerable populations may receive early application mailouts.
Section 2 – Heating Assistance	2.4 – Determination of Benefits 2605(b)(5)- Assurance 5, 2605(c)(1)(B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated the description on how vulnerable populations are prioritized by removing priority allowing vulnerable populations to be moved to the front of the processing queue and adding that vulnerable populations may receive early application mailouts to align with 7 AAC 44.080.

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Section 4 – Crisis Assistance	4.3 – Life-Threatening Crisis Assistance Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed outside temperature as being a factor of life-threatening crisis eligibility. Limited life-threatening crisis to applicants who require power or fuel to operate medical support equipment prescribed by a licensed medical professional.
Section 4 – Crisis Assistance	4.6 – Additional Eligibility Requirements for Crisis Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changed “Year-Round Crisis” to “Winter Crisis.”
Section 4 – Crisis Assistance	4.7 – Types of Assistance Provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changed “Year-Round Crisis” to “Winter Crisis.” Added explanation for life-threatening crisis. Clarified that households with vulnerable populations receive priority via an extra point (\$\$\$) added to their benefit calculation.
Section 4 – Crisis Assistance	4.10 – Do you accept applications for energy crisis assistance at sites that are geographically accessible to all households in the area to be served?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added the Alaska Connect Portal as an acceptable method for applicants to submit a LIHEAP application. Revised the online application go-live date from October 2024 to October 2025. Updated the link to the Alaska Connect Portal.

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Section 4 – Crisis Assistance	4.11 – Do you provide individuals who are individuals with disability the means to travel to the sites at which applications for crisis assistance are accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added the Alaska Connect Portal as an additional way to submit an application.
Section 4 – Crisis Assistance	4.12 – Indicate the maximum benefit for each type of crisis assistance offered	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changed “Year-round Crisis” to “Winter Crisis.”
Section 4 – Crisis Assistance	4.14 – Do you provide for equipment repair or replacement using crisis funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added the option to use crisis funds for equipment repair and replacement.

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Section 4 – Crisis Assistance	4.15 –Check appropriate boxes below to indicated types of assistance provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Added the following types of crisis assistance: Heating system repair; heating system replacement; wood stove purchase; pellet stove purchase; and repair or replacement of hot water heaters that are integrated with a heating system.
Section 4 – Crisis Assistance	Attachment – FY26 Model Plan – Benefit Levels, 2605(c)(1)(B) – 4.12 Explanation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Added explanation to section 4.12 regarding heating system repair and replacement availability and benefit amount.
Section 5 – Weatherization	5.8 – Do you give priority in eligibility to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Changed reference from “weatherization contractor” to “AHFC’s weatherization subgrantees” to more accurately identify the designated entities responsible for delivering weatherization services under the program.

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Section 9 – Energy Suppliers	9.4 How do you assure that no household receiving assistance under this title will be treated adversely because of their receipt of LIHEAP assistance?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarified that the state investigates client claims of unfair treatment from vendors.
Section 12 – Fair Hearings	12.1 – How many fair hearings did the Grant recipient have in the prior federal Fiscal Year?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated number of fair hearings from 128 to 2.
Section 12 – Fair Hearings	12.2 – How many of those fair hearings resulted in the initial decision being reversed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated number of fair hearings from 1 to 0.

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Section 15 – Training	15.1 – Describe the training you provide for each of the following groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added link to DPAweb reference.
Section 16 – Performance Goals and Measures	16.1 Describe your progress toward meeting the data collection and reporting requirements of the four required LIHEAP (Benefit Targeting Index, Burden Reduction Targeting Index, Restoration of Home Energy Service, and Prevention of Loss of Home Energy Service).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated time frames.

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Section 17 – Program Integrity	17.5 Identification Verification – Describe what methods are used to verify the authenticity of identification documents provided by clients or household members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Selected “Match SSNs with death records from Social Security Administration or state agency.”
	17.6 Protection of Privacy and Confidentiality – Describe the financial and operating controls in place to protect client information against improper use or disclosure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Selected “Grant recipient employees.”

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	17.10 Investigations and Prosecutions – Grant recipient attempts collection of improper payments. Describe recoupment process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarified that the Division of Public Assistance (DPA) sends a letter requesting full repayment of any overpaid LIHEAP amount.
Plan Attachments	Heating component benefit matrix, if applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added the FY2026 Heating Component Benefit Matrix - Community Listing.
Plan Attachments	FY 26 Program Yr Income Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uploaded updated document for FY26.