August 28, 2023

**RE:** LIHEAP, Energy Assistance (EA) and Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) Program Updates for Fiscal year (FY) 2024

**EA Benefit Amount Reduced by Half**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| EA Fuel Type | FY23 Benefit Amount – Ending September 30, 2023 | FY24 Benefit Amount – Starting October 1, 2023 |
| Natural Gas | $652 | $326 |
| Tank Propane | $990 | $495 |
| Electric | $636 | $318 |
| Fuel Oil | $652 | $326 |
| Wood | $438 | $219 |
| Kerosene | $306 | $153 |
| Cyl. Propane | $354 | $177 |

What does this mean?

* The EA amount will be reduced by half for each fuel type, as shown above.
* This does not change the requirement that the household must have less than a $500 credit on their energy service account to receive the benefit.

**EA Benefit Timeframe Reduced**

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| --- | --- |
| FY23 Timeframe – Ending September 30, 2023 | FY24 Timeframe – Starting October 1, 2023 |
| EA benefit is provided the entire Program Year from October 1 – September 30 | EA benefit is provided during a set number of months from October 1 – May31 |
| Elderly/Disabled households: October – September | Elderly/Disabled households: October – May |
| All other households: November – September | All other households: November – May |

What does this mean?

* EA benefits will only be distributed during a set number of months, as shown above.
* The months not covered by EA (June – September) will be covered with ECIP funds.
* The EA benefit will remain a *one-time* payment to the customer or supplier.
* EA will still allow for payment to go towards any heating or cooling cost.
* The fuel types will remain the same - natural gas, tank propane, electric, fuel oil, wood, kerosene, and cylinder propane.
* If the household has multiple fuel types, they can choose the fuel type to pay when they apply.

**Winter ECIP/Summer ECIP Crisis Definition Change**

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| --- | --- |
| FY23 Crisis Definition – Ending September 30, 2023 | FY24 Crisis Definition – Starting October 1, 2023 |
| A sudden, unexpected, uncontrollable loss of financial resources | The receipt of a termination or disconnect notice indicating a specific disconnect date |
| Life-threatening conditions (utility services disconnected or fuel is depleted) | The issuance of a final billing statement advising the account has been terminated |
| Any circumstance that threatens the stability if energy aid is not supplied | A propane tank is filled at less than twenty-percent (20%) capacity |
| Self-attestation accepted for crisis | The customer is a cash on delivery (COD) customer |
|  | A pre-paid electric customer indicates their pre-paid usage is about to run out |

What does this mean?

* The crisis household requirements have been updated as shown above.
* Households will now be required to provide a termination of services or disconnect notice from their energy supplier indicating a specific disconnect date, as self-attestation will no longer be accepted as a “crisis” case.

**Winter ECIP/Summer ECIP Crisis Benefit Amount Reduced by Half**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| ECIP Component | FY23 Benefit Amount – Ending September 30, 2023 | FY24 Benefit Amount – Starting October 1, 2023 |
| Winter ECIP | $1600 | $800 |
| Summer ECIP | $1200 | $600 |

What does this mean?

* The amount will be reduced by half for each ECIP component, as shown above.
* A household can now receive up to $800 for Winter ECIP and $600 for Summer ECIP.
* Benefit amounts will continue to cap out at the maximum.

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| Household Size | Total Income | Monthly Income |
| 1 | $30,419  | $2,535  |
| 2 | $39,779  | $3,315  |
| 3 | $49,139  | $4,095  |
| 4 | $58,499  | $4,875  |
| 5 | $67,858  | $5,655  |
| 6 | $77,218  | $6,435  |
| 7 | $78,973  | $6,581  |
| 8 | $80,728  | $6,727  |
| 9 | $82,483  | $6,874  |
| 10 | $84,238  | $7,020  |
| 11 | $85,993  | $7,166  |
| 12 | $87,748  | $7,312  |
| 13 | $89,503.47  | $7,459  |
| 14 | $91,258.44  | $7,605  |
| 15 | $93,013.41  | $7,751  |
| 16 | $94,768.38  | $7,897  |
| 17 | $96,523.35  | $8,044  |
| 18 | $98,278.32  | $8,190  |
| 19 | $100,033.29  | $8,336  |
| 20 | $101,788.26  | $8,482  |

**State Median Income (SMI) Change**

What does this mean?

* While the eligibility requirements for LIHEAP remain at 60% of the State Median Income, the income thresholds were updated. These will go into effect on October 1, 2023.