

**Analysis and Summary of Governor's FFY 25  
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**

Joint Hearing of Committees on Appropriations, Energy and Technology,  
and Human Services

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**OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS**

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## INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to CGS Section 4-28b, the Governor has submitted for consideration the proposed allocation plan for the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2025 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Block Grant. An overview of the allocation plan and proposed changes follows.

## LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

Connecticut utilizes LIHEAP funding to support the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP). This program serves households whose income falls at or below 60% of the state median income (SMI, \$87,511 for a family of four). The Department of Social Services (DSS) administers the program with the assistance of the Community Action Agencies (CAAs).

The proposed plan assumes level base block grant funding of \$78.4 million. Additional funding (carry forward, refunds, and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) results in total available funds of \$88.5 million. The table below compares the proposed FFY 25 budget to FFY 24:

**Table 1. Proposed FFY 25 Budget compared to FFY 24 Estimated**

Expenditure Category	FFY 24 Estimated \$	FFY 25 Proposed \$	% Change from FFY 24
Rental Assistance	900,000	941,775	4.6%
Basic Benefits	42,300,000	44,247,713	4.6%
Crisis Assistance <sup>1</sup>	27,900,000	29,612,092	6.1%
Utility Supplemental Benefit <sup>2</sup>	6,900,000	-	-100.0%
Weatherization Services (DEEP)	325,000	500,000	53.8%
SNAP Benefit	1,900,000	1,800,000	-5.3%
Assurance 16	1,200,000	1,200,000	0.0%
Heating System Repair & Replacement	1,000,000	1,200,000	20%
System Enhancement	1,000,000	1,000,000	0.0%
Administration	8,300,000	7,990,577	-3.7%
Outreach	50,000	50,000	0.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>91,775,000</b>	<b>88,542,157</b>	<b>-3.5%</b>
<i>Estimated Caseload</i>	<i>102,810</i>	<i>109,500</i>	<i>6.5%</i>

<sup>1</sup>Includes the expenditure of one-time ARPA funds in FFY 24, further detailed below.

<sup>2</sup>Estimated expenditures to be incurred in the FFY 24 program year through the provision of a supplemental benefit for utility heated households.

SOURCE OF FUNDS	FFY 24 Available \$	FFY 25 Available \$	% Change from FFY 24
Block Grant	78,365,022	78,365,022	0.0%
Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act	2,040,750	2,040,750	0.0%
Balance Carried Forward	9,813,135	7,736,385	-21.2%
Other- Vendor Refunds	400,000	400,000	0.0%
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>90,618,907</b>	<b>88,542,157</b>	<b>-2.3%</b>
One-Time ARPA (SA 24-1, PA 24-81)	8,563,557	-	-100.0%
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE w/ARPA</b>	<b>99,182,464</b>	<b>88,542,157</b>	<b>-10.7%</b>

## HIGHLIGHTS

Overall, the proposed plan maintains FFY 24 benefit levels and provides additional crisis assistance benefits for all eligible fuel deliverable households.

The FFY 24 allocation plan included a second crisis assistance benefit for households with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). Subsequently, SA 24-1 appropriated ARPA funding of \$13.5 million (revised down to \$8.5 million via PA 24-81) to provide another crisis assistance benefit to fuel deliverable households who had exhausted their program benefits. In addition, a supplemental benefit will be provided to utility heated households in FFY 24 utilizing unspent LIHEAP funds (after maximizing the carry forward into FFY 25). Table 3 details FFY 24 and FFY 25 benefit amounts by income level.

**Table 3. FFY 25 vs FFY 24 Program Eligibility and Benefit Levels**

<b>Benefit Type</b>	<b>Income Level</b>	<b>FFY 24 \$</b>	<b>FFY 25 \$</b>	<b>Change from FFY 24 \$</b>
Rental Assistance	1	125	125	-
	2	100	100	-
	3	75	75	-
Basic Benefits	Vulnerable:			
	1	530	530	-
	2	380	380	-
	3	230	230	-
	Non-Vulnerable:			
	1	480	480	-
	2	330	330	-
3	180	180	-	
Crisis Assistance	1st Benefit	410	410	-
	2nd Benefit	410	410	-
	3rd Benefit*	-	410	410

\*Vulnerable households with income levels 1 and 2 were eligible to receive a second crisis benefit under the FFY 24 allocation plan. An additional Crisis Assistance benefit was made available, using ARPA funds, to fuel deliverable households who had exhausted their program benefits. In FFY 25, households with income levels 1 through 3 may receive up to three crisis benefits.

## FEDERAL BUDGET ACTION

Final Congressional action has yet to be taken on FFY 25 appropriations for this grant. The allocation plan assumes level base block grant funding.

## CONTINGENCY PLAN

If funding is more or less than the amount assumed in the proposal, benefit payment levels and/or income eligibility criteria may be adjusted. Per CGS Section 4-28b, any proposed transfer over \$50,000 to or from any specific allocation or any transfer amount that is 10% of any specific allocation (whichever is less), must be submitted to the speaker and president pro tempore to be approved, modified, or rejected by relevant committees.

Table 4 provides a summary of benefit categories and eligibility criteria and Table 5 details FFY 25 poverty guidelines relevant to income eligibility. Additional information and program dates are detailed further below.

**Table 4. Summary of FFY 24 LIHEAP Benefits and Eligibility Requirements**

<b>Benefit Category</b>	<b>Eligibility Requirements</b>	<b>Receipt of Benefits</b>
Rental Assistance	Includes households who (1) do not make direct vendor payments for their primary source of heat, and (2) have annual gross income up to 60% state median income.	The FFY 25 proposed benefit ranges from \$75 to \$125 depending on income level. Eligible households receive a check to defray heating costs. Not more than one Rental Assistance Benefit is issued per dwelling unit.
Basic Benefit	Includes households with incomes up to 60% state median income.	The FFY 25 proposed benefit ranges from \$180 to \$530, and is based on income, household size, and vulnerability.
Crisis Assistance	Includes deliverable fuel heated households who have exhausted their Basic Benefits and are still at imminent risk of losing heat.	The FFY 25 proposed benefit is \$410. All eligible households may receive up to three Crisis Assistance benefits. If determined eligible, a fuel delivery will be authorized within 48 hours of the household's request, or 18 hours in life-threatening situations.

Note: A household will automatically be considered income eligible if (1) it makes direct to vendor payments for heat, and (2) a household member is participating in at least one of the following programs: Temporary Family Assistance, State Supplement to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled, Refugee Cash Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance, Supplemental Security Income.

**Table 5. FFY 25 Poverty Guidelines**

<b>FFY 25 Proposed Plan</b>		
<b>Income Level</b>	<b>Poverty Guidelines</b>	<b>Annual Amount \$ for Family of 4</b>
1	At or below 125% FPL	At or below \$39,000
2	126% - 200% FPL	\$39,001 - \$62,400
3	201% FPL- 60% SMI	\$62,401 - \$87,511

**Assurance 16**

Funding is provided to CAAs for enhanced case management services to assist low-income households address their energy needs. Services include risk assessment, counseling, education, and assistance with energy suppliers and vendors.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefit**

LIHEAP benefits are available to SNAP recipient households who (1) do not make direct vendor payments for their primary source of heat, and (2) have a shelter and/or utility obligation. A \$20.01 LIHEAP SNAP benefit will be paid to these households, which generally qualifies them for greater SNAP benefits.

**Program Dates**

The program begins on November 1, 2024 and continues through June 17, 2025 as follows:

11/1/24	First day for authorization of fuel deliveries and payment for deliveries can be made by the program
4/1/25	Deadline for fuel authorization or deliveries
5/30/25	Last day a household can apply to establish eligibility for benefits
6/17/25	Last day to submit deliverable fuel bills