

Department: County Human Services

Program Contact: Rachel Pearl

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Proposed

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:
Executive Summary

In order for people to have quality of life, they need to have enough heat in their home, the lights on, and hot water. Functional utilities help ensure that a young person can learn at home, an older adult is safe, and families remain stable. The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) supports housing stability by providing financial help to people who live on a fixed or low income. The EAP emphasizes providing equitable access for all people who need help meeting their energy needs.

Program Description

ISSUE: The average energy burden for low-income households is 8.2% - 3 times higher than higher-income households. Many low-income households use expensive heating fuels. Their homes are often older and less efficient, and they face barriers to accessing the technology that would help reduce their energy costs. Additionally, Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color bear a further disproportionate energy burden. In 2016, the American Council for Energy Efficient Economy found that almost half of all energy-poor households in the US were Black. We also know that people in BIPOC households were more likely to lose their jobs or experience a reduction in wages during the COVID-19 pandemic and the long term economic hardships can make it even more difficult for households to meet their basic energy needs.

PROGRAM GOAL: The Energy Assistance Program provides one-time annual energy bill payments for households who live on a fixed or low income and who are struggling with energy costs. This will help keep these families in stable housing.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: The Energy Assistance Program provides direct utility payments to income-eligible households. The EAP also provides energy education, case management, and other services. This helps households manage and pay for their energy costs, as well as learn about other services. The EAP consists of seven community nonprofit agencies who deliver the energy bill payments for fixed and low-income households. On average, program participants received \$670 in utility help last year. To better meet community needs, the EAP is prioritizing culturally-specific outreach to BIPOC populations, as well as elders and families who may need energy cost help.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budgeted	FY24 Estimate	FY25 Target
Output	Number of households served. ¹	29,474	30,000	19,000	19,000
Outcome	Percentage of households served after receiving shutoff notice who avoid disconnection.	100%	100%	100%	100%

Performance Measures Descriptions

1. Estimated targets for FY24 & 25 return to pre-pandemic levels as a result of pandemic-era additional funding for Energy Services.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2024	2024	2025	2025
Personnel	\$0	\$1,159,808	\$0	\$955,991
Contractual Services	\$0	\$14,960,391	\$0	\$10,607,706
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$477,383	\$0	\$110,176
Internal Services	\$0	\$319,787	\$0	\$301,530
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$16,917,369	\$0	\$11,975,403
Program Total:	\$16,917,369		\$11,975,403	
Program FTE	0.00	10.00	0.00	7.50

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$16,917,369	\$0	\$11,975,403
Total Revenue	\$0	\$16,917,369	\$0	\$11,975,403

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$140,720 in indirect revenues.

\$7,321,480 - OHCSO Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP) (State).

\$4,573,923 - OHCSO Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program - Energy (LIHEAP) (Federal). Decreased by \$4.5 million from FY 2024.

\$80,000 - PDX Water/Sewer D/A (Local)

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2024: 25119 YFS - Energy Assistance

FY 2025 reduction is due to a drop in estimated Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding. The FY 2024 budget included estimated carryover funding of \$1.8 million, which is not included in the FY 2025 budget. Additionally, the program is budgeting conservatively for FY 2025 as it is not clear if one-time-only funding from Disaster Relief LIHEAP or Emergency LIHEAP funding will continue into the second year of the biennium.

Decrease of 2.50 FTE; Reduced 2.00 Program Technician, moved 0.50 Program Specialist to program offer 25121.