

Department: County Human Services **Program Contact:** Peggy Samolinski
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As 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. This is even more important during the COVID-19 pandemic, where staying home means saving lives. 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 Summary

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 old and inefficient, 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. These added 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. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the EAP has supported clients virtually, and is a model for best practices in how to do so. 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	Primary Measure	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budgeted	FY22 Estimate	FY23 Offer
Output	Number of households served. ¹	19,098	16,500	16,500	16,500
Outcome	Percentage of households served after receiving shutoff notice who avoid disconnection.	100%	100%	100%	100%

Performance Measures Descriptions

¹ Includes households served through the Energy Assistance Stability Coronavirus Relief (EASCR) program. Increased output reflects additional funding sources as part of COVID-19 relief efforts.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2022	2022	2023	2023
Personnel	\$0	\$904,690	\$0	\$962,106
Contractual Services	\$0	\$11,220,562	\$0	\$9,844,271
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$79,530	\$0	\$170,129
Internal Services	\$0	\$324,045	\$0	\$352,134
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$12,528,827	\$0	\$11,328,640
Program Total:	\$12,528,827		\$11,328,640	
Program FTE	0.00	8.40	0.00	8.40

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$12,528,827	\$0	\$11,328,640
Total Revenue	\$0	\$12,528,827	\$0	\$11,328,640

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$135,078 in indirect revenues.
 \$5,904,246 - OHCSO Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP)
 \$5,344,394 - OHCSO Low Income Energy Assistance Program - Energy (LIEAP)
 \$80,000 - PDX Water/Sewer D/A

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2022: 25119 YFS - Energy Assistance