



Program #25119 - YFS - Energy Assistance FY 2024 Adopted

Department: County Human Services **Program Contact:** Peggy Samolinski
Program Offer Type: Existing **Program Offer Stage:** Adopted
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 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. 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. 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 | FY22 Actual | FY23 Budgeted | FY23 Estimate | FY24 Offer |
|--------------|---|-------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Output | Number of households served. ¹ | 30,193 | 16,500 | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| Outcome | Percentage of households served after receiving shutoff notice who avoid disconnection. | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Performance Measures Descriptions

¹ Increased output reflects additional one time funding sources as part of COVID-19 relief efforts.

Revenue/Expense Detail

| | Adopted General Fund | Adopted Other Funds | Adopted General Fund | Adopted Other Funds |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Program Expenses | 2023 | 2023 | 2024 | 2024 |
| Personnel | \$0 | \$962,106 | \$0 | \$1,159,808 |
| Contractual Services | \$0 | \$11,103,767 | \$0 | \$14,960,391 |
| Materials & Supplies | \$0 | \$170,129 | \$0 | \$477,383 |
| Internal Services | \$0 | \$352,134 | \$0 | \$319,787 |
| Total GF/non-GF | \$0 | \$12,588,136 | \$0 | \$16,917,369 |
| Program Total: | \$12,588,136 | | \$16,917,369 | |
| Program FTE | 0.00 | 8.40 | 0.00 | 10.00 |

| Program Revenues | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|
| Intergovernmental | \$0 | \$12,588,136 | \$0 | \$16,917,369 |
| Total Revenue | \$0 | \$12,588,136 | \$0 | \$16,917,369 |

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$142,886 in indirect revenues.

\$9,036,377 - OHCS D Low Income Energy Assistance Program - Energy (LIEAP) (Federal). Increased by \$3.7 million from FY 2023.

\$7,321,479 - OHCS D Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP) (State). Increased by \$1.4 million from FY 2023.

\$479,513 -Federal LIH Water Assistance Program (LIHWA) Consolidated Appropriations (Federal). Decreased by \$780K from FY 2023.

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

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2023: 25119 YFS - Energy Assistance

In FY 2024, decreased by 2.40 FTE Weatherization Experts that moved to program offer YFS - Weatherization (25121A).

In FY 2024, increased by 4.00 FTE (3.00 Program Technicians and 1.00 FTE Program Specialist) that moved from program offer COVID-19 Energy & Housing Services (25491). In FY 2023, these FTE were budgeted in the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Fund (1515). In FY 2024, these FTE are budgeted in the Federal/State Fund (1505).