

**Program #25119 - YFS - Energy Assistance**
**FY 2026 Proposed**
**Department:** County Human Services

**Program Contact:** Lori Stegmann

**Program Offer Type:** Operating

**Program Offer Stage:** Proposed

**Related Programs:**
**Program Characteristics:**
**Program Description**

**ISSUE:** In order for people to have quality of life, they need to have enough heat and cooling in their home, the lights on, and hot water. Functioning utilities help ensure that a young person can learn at home, an older adult is safe, and families remain stable.

The average energy burden for low-income households is three 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 (BIPOC) 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. BIPOC households also have had a slower recovery since the COVID-19 pandemic and the long term economic hardships can make it even more difficult for households to meet their basic energy needs. In the past few years, local electric companies have raised utility rates by 18-25%, with additional increases to come in 2025. According to Oregon Public Broadcasting, PGE customers have seen their bills go up by nearly 50% since 2019.

**PROGRAM GOAL:** The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) supports housing stability by providing financial help to people who live on a fixed or low income. EAP provides one-time annual energy bill payments for households who are struggling with energy costs, emphasizing equitable access for all people who have need. 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 \$532 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.

**PROGRAM OUTPUTS:**

- Provides direct utility payments to income-eligible households.
- Provides energy education to help reduce utility costs.
- Reaches vulnerable communities through outreach and culturally specific providers.

**Performance Measures**

| Measure Type | Performance Measure  | FY24 Actual | FY25 Budgeted | FY25 Estimate | FY26 Target |
|--------------|--|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Output       | Number of households served  | 18,193      | 19,000        | 19,000        | 18,000      |
| Output       | Number of households that avoid disconnection after receiving a shutoff notice | 18,193      | 19,000        | 19,000        | 18,000      |

**Performance Measures Descriptions**

## Revenue/Expense Detail

|                        | Adopted<br>General Fund | Adopted<br>Other Funds | Proposed<br>General Fund | Proposed<br>Other Funds |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Program Expenses       | 2025                    | 2025                   | 2026                     | 2026                    |
| Personnel              | \$0                     | \$955,991              | \$0                      | \$1,013,632             |
| Contractual Services   | \$0                     | \$10,607,706           | \$0                      | \$10,709,601            |
| Materials & Supplies   | \$0                     | \$110,176              | \$0                      | \$57,250                |
| Internal Services      | \$0                     | \$301,530              | \$0                      | \$303,044               |
| <b>Total GF/non-GF</b> | <b>\$0</b>              | <b>\$11,975,403</b>    | <b>\$0</b>               | <b>\$12,083,527</b>     |
| <b>Program Total:</b>  | <b>\$11,975,403</b>     |                        | <b>\$12,083,527</b>      |                         |
| <b>Program FTE</b>     | 0.00                    | 7.50                   | 0.00                     | 7.50                    |

| Program Revenues     |            |                     |            |                     |
|----------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|
| Intergovernmental    | \$0        | \$11,975,403        | \$0        | \$12,083,527        |
| <b>Total Revenue</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$11,975,403</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$12,083,527</b> |

## Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$145,965 in indirect revenues.

\$6,605,988 - OHCSO Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP) (State)

\$5,397,539 - OHCSO Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program - Energy (LIHEAP) (Federal)

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

## Significant Program Changes

**Last Year this program was:** FY 2025: 25119 YFS - Energy Assistance

Federal funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is decreased by \$1.9 million from FY 2025.