

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

January 1, 2019 – June 30, 2019

Department: Community Based Services

Block Grant: Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

This report is submitted in compliance with KRS 45.357. This report on achievements may be compared to the Block Grant application currently on file with LRC.

Block Grant Manager: 

Eric T. Clark
Commissioner

Date 7/26/2019

1. FINANCES

	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
Annual Budget	\$57,833,255.69	\$0	\$0	\$57,833,255.69
Actual Expenditures	\$46,132,803.61	\$0	\$0	\$46,132,803.61
Encumbrances	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Available Balance	\$11,700,452.08	\$0	\$0	\$11,700,452.08

2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
1. The Crisis Component of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) operated from January 7, 2019, through March 31, 2019. The season was extended through April 30, 2019, due to the mild winter weather. The Crisis Component served approximately 78,388 distinct households at or below 130% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) that faced disconnection from their utility provider or were within four days of running out of a deliverable fuel (e.g., coal, wood, propane, kerosene, and heating oil). The amount budgeted for Crisis was \$41,248,666.	1. The Crisis Component of LIHEAP operated from January 7, 2019, through March 31, 2019. The season was extended through April 30, 2019, due to the mild winter and available LIHEAP funds. During this component of the LIHEAP program, 78,388 households were served with an average benefit amount totaling \$327.97.
2. Fifteen percent of LIHEAP funds were transferred to the Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) for use in the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), which is administered through Community Action Kentucky, Inc. The purpose of these funds is to increase the number of homes weatherized and reduce utility costs for these low-income households. Weatherization assistance is provided to low income households at or below 200% of the FPG utilizing a combination of U.S. Department of	2. Approximately, 360 homes were weatherized during this timeframe with an average benefit of \$7,171, using a combination of DOE, WAP, and LIHEAP funds.

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Energy (DOE) funds and LIHEAP Weatherization funds. Weatherization activities are designed to make the living conditions of a home safe and healthy. Additionally, successful implementation of the program provides homes with more efficient energy use, conservation, and lower energy bills.

3. AUTHORIZED CHANGES (from the Block Grant Plan in Finances and/or Objectives)

For State Fiscal Year 2019, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services agreed to transfer 15% of the LIHEAP allocation to KHC for weatherization activities. The program will be operated in accordance with DOE and LIHEAP rules.

4. EVALUATION OF RESULTS

LIHEAP includes quality assurance and compliance monitoring as evaluative components. The 23 agencies that administer direct LIHEAP services conduct self-evaluations of their services and are subject to annual program performance evaluations by the Community Action of Kentucky, Inc. (CAK) in an effort to continuously improve the program. CAK monitors each of the 23 agencies between February and May of each year to ensure compliance with programmatic requirements, including correct eligibility and benefit determinations.

5. ALTERNATIVES FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY

Since 1989, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services has contracted with CAK to operate the Crisis Component and the Subsidy Component. CAK subcontracts with the state's 23 Community Action Agencies to operate the LIHEAP program throughout the Commonwealth's 120 counties. The community action agencies have operated the program and delivered services in a manner that is consistent with the LIHEAP Block Grant Application, the federal and state regulations, and Cabinet policy. Annually, the program is reviewed for ways to improve services. Each year, a change committee meeting is held which consists of front line staff, program managers and others to discuss and submit changes that would improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the program. These changes are submitted to the Cabinet as recommendations for change to the program design. All approved changes are added to the LIHEAP program manual and appropriate staff are made aware of those changes.

To provide oversight and technical assistance, DCBS participates with CAK monitoring agencies for fiscal and program requirements.