

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

July 1, 2019 – December 31, 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 C. Friedlander
Acting Secretary


Date

1. FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
Annual Budget	\$50,350,560.00	\$0	\$0	\$50,350,560.00
Actual Expenditures	\$15,203,951.92	\$0	\$0	\$15,203,951.92
Encumbrances	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Available Balance	\$35,146,308.08	\$0	\$0	\$35,146,308.08

2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
1. In the Subsidy Component for November and December 2019, LIHEAP served approximately 75,304 households at or below 130% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) with a one-time benefit on either their metered utility bill or bulk fuels such as coal, wood, propane, kerosene, and heating oil. The component guarantees a benefit to all eligible households that apply and meet the eligibility criteria. The amount budgeted for Subsidy was \$10,375,782.	1. The LIHEAP Subsidy Component ran from November 6, 2019, through December 13, 2019. During this component of the LIHEAP program, 75,304 households were served. The average benefit amount was \$137.79.
2. The Crisis Component of LIHEAP will operate from January 6, 2020, through March 31, 2020 or until funding is exhausted, whichever comes first. The Crisis Component will seek to serve approximately 40,792 distinct households (based on current Crisis funding) at or below 130% of the FPG that are facing disconnection from their utility provider or are within 4 days of running out of a deliverable fuel (e.g., coal, wood, propane, kerosene, and heating oil). As of December 2019, approximately \$8,981,720.97 was budgeted for the Crisis Component.	2. The LIHEAP Crisis Component will run from January 6, 2020 through March 31, 2020.

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| <p>3. Fifteen percent of LIHEAP funds were transferred to the Kentucky Housing Corporation for use in the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), which is administered through Community Action Kentucky, Inc. The goal 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 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.</p> | <p>3. Approximately, 210 homes have been weatherized during this timeframe with an average benefit of \$8,932.59, using a combination of DOE, WAP, and LIHEAP funds.</p> |
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3. AUTHORIZED CHANGES (from the Block Grant Plan in Finances and/or Objectives)

The Weatherization Assistance Program was transferred in April 2009 from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to the Finance and Administration Cabinet. The Finance and Administration Cabinet designated the Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) to administer the Weatherization program.

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 mostly DOE rules and partially with 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)—both 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, which had been operating the Crisis Component since 1980, to operate 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.