

**BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT****July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020****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: Marta Miranda-Straub

2/1/2021

Marta Miranda-Straub  
Commissioner

**Date**

1. FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
Annual Budget	\$50,860,912.00	\$0	\$0	\$50,860,912.00
Actual Expenditures	\$27,974,308.33	\$0	\$0	\$27,974,308.33
Encumbrances	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Available Balance	\$22,886,603.67	\$0	\$0	\$27,974,308.33

LIHEAP Cares Annual Budget	\$13,745,001.00	\$0	\$0	\$13,745,001.00
LIHEAP Cares Actual Expenditures	\$13,745,001.00	\$0	\$0	\$13,745,001.00
LIHEAP Cares Encumbrances	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
LIHEAP Cares Available Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
LIHEAP Healthy at Home Budget	\$15,000,000.00	\$0	\$0	\$15,000,000.00
LIHEAP Healthy at Home Expenditures	\$4,877,623.69	\$0	\$0	\$4,877,623.69
LIHEAP Healthy at Home Encumbrances	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
LIHEAP Healthy at Home Balance	\$10,122,376.31	\$0	\$0	\$10,122,376.31

**BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT****July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020****Department: Community Based Services****Block Grant: Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)****2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED**

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A subsidy cooling component began in July 1, 2020, and ended October 30, 2020. The summer subsidy cooling component offers assistance for summer cooling costs and serves households at or below 60% State Median Income (SMI).</li> <li>2. A cooling crisis component began in July 1, 2020, and ended October 30, 2020.</li> <li>3. The subsidy fall component began November 2, 2020 and ended December 11, 2020. The fall subsidy component offers assistance to households at or below 150% PFL.</li> <li>4. The Healthy at Home Utility Relief Fund (HAHURF) utilizing Ccoronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding provides bill payment assistance to households in which the COVID-19 pandemic caused a financial hardship resulting in the ability to make timely payments for utility services, including water, and wastewater services.</li> <li>5. 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 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.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. During Subsidy Cooling component of the LIHEAP program, 67,548 households were served with an average benefit amount totaling \$167.68 and a total benefits paid of \$11,326,916.00.</li> <li>2. During the cooling crisis component, 62,678 households were served with an average benefit amount of \$259.16 with a benefits total paid of \$16,244,214.56.</li> <li>3. During the subsidy fall component, 62,129 households were served with an average benefit of \$169.95 with a benefits total paid of \$10,559,401.37.</li> <li>4. With the Healthy at Home Utility Relief Fund (HAHURF), utilizing Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, 24,386 households were served with an average benefit of \$314.42 for electric/gas and 17,570 households were served with an average benefit of \$379.16 for water/wastewater services. Please note, HAHURF expenditures reflect invoices received and paid in December 2020.</li> <li>5. Approximately 161 homes were weatherized during this timeframe with an average benefit of \$6,200.68, using a combination of DOE, WAP, and LIHEAP funds.</li> </ol>

**BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT**  
**July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020**

**Department:** Community Based Services      **Block Grant:** Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

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

For State Fiscal Year 2020, 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.

On May 28, 2020, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) filed an Ordinary and Emergency regulation amendment for 921 KAR 4:116 to “revise the income limit for eligibility ceiling from 130% to 150% of the federal poverty level for LIHEAP services.” The amendment also granted CHFS the flexibility to omit copays and authorize summer cooling assistance. This funding was provided to, “prevent, prepare for, or respond to” home energy needs related to the national emergency created by COVID-19. Although originally filed in the previous time period, the Ordinary administrative regulation went into effect on October 23, 2020.

The additional CARES funding is being used to administer a new cooling program for Kentucky so that LIHEAP may provide bill payment assistance year-round for heating and cooling during subsidy and crisis components of the program. The LIHEAP heating subsidy component offsets home heating costs; assistance amounts are structured as a percentage of the household’s annual heating costs and percentage of poverty met by the household. The LIHEAP heating crisis component offers assistance for an energy emergency. Assistance is limited to the amount necessary to relieve the crisis with the maximum amount not to exceed community action agency’s local cost for a deliverable supply of the households’ primary heating fuel or \$600 for gas or electric. The LIHEAP cooling subsidy/crisis component offers emergency cooling assistance. Recipients may apply more than once with a maximum benefit amount of \$600.

**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.