

Title18: Human Services

Part 16: Division of Community Services

Part 16 Chapter 1: Low-Income Energy Assistance Program

Rule 16.1 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) State Plan

Source: Miss Code Annotated 43-1-2.

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

DETAILED MODEL PLAN

PUBLIC LAW 97-35, AS AMENDED

FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016

GRANTEE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

EIN: 64-6000807

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PLEASE CHECK ONE: TRIBE STATE

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Administration for Children and Families
Office of Community Services
Washington, DC 20447**

THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13)

Use of this model plan is optional. However, the information requested is required in order to receive a Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) grant in years in which the grantee is not permitted to file an abbreviated plan. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Section 1**Program Components, 2605(a), 2605(b)(1) – Assurance 1, 2605(c)(1)(C)**

- 1.1 Check which components you will operate under the LIHEAP program. (Note: You must provide information for each component designated here as requested elsewhere in this plan.)

Dates of Operation

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Heating assistance	Start date:	October 1	End date:	April 30
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cooling assistance	Start date:	May 1	End date:	September 30
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Crisis assistance	Start date:	January 1	End date:	September 30
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Weatherization assistance	Start date:	September 1	End date:	August 31

Estimated Funding Allocation, 2604(c), 2605(k)(1), 2605(b)(9), 2605(b)(16) – Assurances 9 and 16

- 1.2 Estimate what amount of available LIHEAP funds will be used for each component that you will operate: **The total of all percentages must add up to 100%.**

 37 % heating assistance

 27 % cooling assistance

 05 % crisis assistance

 15 % weatherization assistance

 01 % carryover to the following Federal fiscal year

 10 % administrative and planning costs

 05 % services to reduce home energy needs including needs assessment (Assurance 16)

 00 % used to develop and implement leveraging activities

 100 % **TOTAL**

Alternate Use of Crisis Assistance Funds, 2605(c)(1)(C)

1.3 The funds reserved for winter crisis assistance that have not been expended by March 15 will be reprogrammed to:

- Heating assistance
- Weatherization assistance
- Cooling assistance
- Other (specify): _____

Categorical Eligibility, 2605(b)(2)(A) – Assurance 2, 2605(c)(1)(A), 2605(b)(8A) – Assurance 8

1.4 Do you consider households categorically eligible if one household member receives one of the following categories of benefits in the left column below? Yes No

	Heating	Cooling	Crisis	Weatherization
SNAP				
TANF				
SSI				
Means-tested veteran's program				
Other (Specify): _____ _____				

1.5 Do you automatically enroll households without a direct annual application?

- Yes No -- If yes, explain:

1.6 How do you ensure there is no difference in the treatment of categorically eligible households from those not receiving other public assistance when determining eligibility and benefit amounts?

See Eligibility Attachment

SNAP Nominal Payments

1.7 Do you allocate LIHEAP funds toward a nominal payment for SNAP clients?

Yes No

Amount of Minimal Assistance: \$_____

Frequency of Assistance:

Once per year

Once every five years

Other (describe): _____

Determination of Eligibility – Countable Income

1. In determining a household's income eligibility for LIHEAP, do you use gross income or net income?

Gross Income

Net Income

2. Select all of the applicable forms of countable income used to determine a household's income eligibility for LIHEAP.

Wages

Self-employment income

Contract income

Payments from mortgage or sales contracts

Unemployment Insurance

Strike pay

Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits

Including MediCare deduction Excluding MediCare deduction

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Retirement / pension benefits

- General Assistance benefits
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits
- Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) benefits
- Loans that need to be repaid
- Cash gifts
- Savings account balance
- One-time lump-sum payments, such as rebates/credits, winnings from lotteries, refund deposits, etc.
- Jury duty compensation
- Rental income
- Income from employment through Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
- Income from work study programs
- Alimony
- Child support
- Interest, dividends, or royalties
- Commissions
- Legal settlements
- Insurance payments made directly to the insured
- Insurance payments made specifically for the repayment of a bill, debt, or estimate
- Veterans Administration (VA) benefits
- Earned income of a child under the age of 18
- Balance of retirement, pension, or annuity accounts where funds cannot be withdrawn without a penalty.

- Income tax refunds
- Stipends from senior companion programs, such as VISTA
- Funds received by household for the care of a foster child
- Ameri-Corp Program payments for living allowances, earnings, and in-kind aid.
- Reimbursements (for mileage, gas, lodging, meals, etc.)
- Other

Section 2 - HEATING ASSISTANCE

Eligibility, 2605(b)(2) – Assurance 2

2.1 Designate the income eligibility threshold used for the heating component:

2015 HHS poverty income level _____%

OR

FY 2016 state’s median income 60 %

2.2 Do you have additional eligibility requirements for **HEATING ASSISTANCE**?

Yes No

2.3 Check the appropriate boxes below and describe the policies for each.

- | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ● Do you require an assets test? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| ● Do you have additional/differing eligibility policies for: | | |
| ● Renters? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● Renters living in subsidized housing? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| ● Renters with utilities included in the rent? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● Do you give priority in eligibility to: | | |
| ● Elderly? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● Disabled? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● Young children? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● Households with high energy burdens? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● Other? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Determination of Benefits, 2605(b)(5) – Assurance 5, 2605(c)(1)(B)

- 2.4 Describe how you prioritize the provision of heating assistance to vulnerable households, e.g., benefit amounts, application period, etc.

During the case management process, consideration is given to ensure compliance of this subsection. See Benefit Matrix and Eligibility and Benefit Determination Attachment for further description.

- 2.5 Check the variables you use to determine your benefit levels. (Check all that apply):

Income

Family (household) size

Home energy cost or need:

Fuel type

Climate/region

Individual bill

Dwelling type

Energy burden (% of income spent on home energy)

Energy need

Other (Describe)

Benefit Levels, 2605(b)(5) – Assurance 5, 2605(c)(1)(B)

- 2.6 Describe benefit levels:

\$ 1.00 Minimum benefit

\$ 1,500 Maximum benefit

Total benefit for year (can be divided between heating, cooling or crisis).

- 2.7 Do you provide in-kind (e.g., blankets, space heaters) and/or other forms of benefits?

Yes No -- If yes, describe.

Blankets, heating systems, furnaces and other heating, energy-related materials/services may be provided depending on need, the case management result and client complying fully with the established case plan.

Section 3: COOLING ASSISTANCE

Eligibility, 2605(c)(1)(A), 2605(b)(2) – Assurance 2

3.1 Designate the income eligibility threshold used for the cooling component:

2015 HHS poverty income level _____%

OR

FY 2016 median income 60 %

3.2 Do you have additional eligibility requirements for **COOLING ASSISTANCE**

Yes No

3.3 Check the appropriate boxes below and describe the policies for each.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
● Do you require an assets test?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
● Do you have additional/differing eligibility policies for:		
• Renters?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Renters living in subsidized housing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Renters with utilities included in the rent?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● Do you give priority in eligibility to:		
• Elderly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Disabled?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Young children?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Households with high energy burdens?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Other?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.4 Describe how you prioritize the provision of cooling assistance to vulnerable households, e.g., benefit amounts, application period, etc.

During the case management process, consideration is given to ensure compliance of this subsection. See Benefit Matrix and Eligibility and Benefit Determination Attachment for further description.

Determination of Benefits, 2605(b)(5) – Assurance 5, 2605(c)(1)(B)

3.5 Check the variables you use to determine your benefit levels. (Check all that apply):

- Income
- Family (household) size
- Home energy cost or need
 - Fuel type
 - Climate/region
 - Individual bill
 - Dwelling type
 - Energy burden (% of income spent on home energy)
 - Energy need
 - Other (describe)

Benefit Levels, 2605(b)(5) – Assurance 5, 2605(c)(1)(B)

3.6 Describe benefit levels:

\$ 1.00 Minimum benefit \$ * 1,500 Maximum benefit

Total benefit for year (can be divided between heating, cooling or crisis.

3.7 Do you provide in-kind (e.g. fans, air conditioners) and/or other forms of benefits?

- Yes No -- If yes, describe.

Fans, air conditioners, cooling systems and other cooling energy-related service may be provided depending on needs, case management result and client complying fully with the established case plan.

Section 4: CRISIS ASSISTANCE

Eligibility - 2604(c), 2605(c)(1)(A)

4.1 Designate the income eligibility threshold used for the crisis component:

2015 HHS poverty income level _____%

OR

FY 2016 state median income 60 _____%

4.2 Provide your LIHEAP program’s definition for determining a crisis.

See Eligibility and Benefit Determination Attachment

4.3 What constitutes a life-threatening crisis?

See Eligibility and Benefit Determination Attachment

Crisis Requirements, 2604(c)

4.4 Within how many hours do you provide crisis assistance that will resolve the energy crisis for eligible households? 48 Hours

4.5 Within how many hours do you provide crisis assistance that will resolve the energy crisis for eligible households in life-threatening situations? 18 Hours

Crisis Eligibility, 2605(c)(1)(A)

4.6 Do you have additional eligibility requirements for **CRISIS ASSISTANCE?**

Yes No

4.7 Check the appropriate boxes below and describe the policies for each.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
● Do you require an assets test?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
● Do you give priority in eligibility to:		
• Elderly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Disabled?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Young children?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Households with high energy burdens?
- Other?
- In order to receive crisis assistance:
 - Must the household have received a shut-off notice or have a near empty tank?
 - Must the household have been shut off or have an empty tank?
 - Must the household have exhausted their regular heating benefit?
 - Must renters with heating costs included in their rent have received an eviction notice?
 - Must heating/cooling be medically necessary?
 - Must the household have non-working heating or cooling equipment?
 - Other?
- Do you have additional/differing eligibility policies for:
 - Renters?
 - Renters living in subsidized housing?
 - Renters with utilities included in the rent?

Determination of Benefits

4.8 How do you handle crisis situations?

Separate component

Fast Track

Other

4.9 If you have a separate component, how do you determine crisis assistance benefits?

Amount to resolve crisis, up to a maximum of \$ 1,500

Other

Crisis Requirements, 2604(c)

4.10 Do you accept applications for energy crisis assistance at sites that are geographically accessible to all households in the area to be served?

Yes No

4.11 Do you provide individuals who are physically disabled the means to:

■ Submit applications for crisis benefits without leaving their homes?

Yes No If yes, explain.

Case Workers can conduct home visits or they can authorize someone to make an application on their behalf.

■ Travel to the sites at which applications for crisis assistance are accepted?

Yes No If yes, explain.

Benefit Levels, 2605(c)(1)(B)

4.12 Indicate the maximum benefit for each type of crisis assistance offered.

Winter Crisis \$ _____ maximum benefit

Summer Crisis \$ _____ maximum benefit

Year-round Crisis \$ *1,500 maximum benefit

Total benefit for year (can be divided between heating, cooling or crisis).

4.13 Do you provide in-kind (e.g. blankets, space heaters, fans) and/or other forms of benefits?

Yes No If yes, describe.

4.14 Do you provide for equipment repair or replacement using crisis funds?

Yes No

4.15 Check appropriate boxes below to indicate type(s) of assistance provided:

	Winter Crisis	Summer Crisis	Year-round Crisis
Heating system repair			X
Heating system replacement			X
Cooling system repair			X
Cooling system replacement			X
Wood stove purchase			X
Pellet stove purchase			
Solar panel(s)			
Windmill(s)			
Utility poles / Gas line hook-ups			X
Other (Specify): _____			

4.17 Do any of the utility vendors you work with enforce a winter moratorium on shut offs?

Yes No

4.18 Describe the terms of the moratorium and any special dispensation received by LIHEAP clients during or after the moratorium period.

If as of 8:00 a.m. on the day of a scheduled non-pay disconnect, an excessive heat warning or a freeze warning has been issued by the National Weather Service for the county of the scheduled disconnect, such disconnects are suspended.

Section 5: WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE**Eligibility, 2605(c)(1)(A), 2605(b)(2) – Assurance 2**

5.1 Designate the income eligibility threshold used for the weatherization component:

2015 HHS poverty income level _____%

OR

FY 2016 state median income 60 _____%

5.2 Do you enter into an interagency agreement to have another government agency administer a **WEATHERIZATION component**? Yes No

5.3 Name the agency. _____

5.4 Is there a separate monitoring protocol for weatherization? Yes No

WEATHERIZATION - Types of Rules

5.5 Under what rules do you administer LIHEAP weatherization? (Check only one.)

Entirely under LIHEAP (not DOE) rules

Entirely under DOE WAP (not LIHEAP) rules

Mostly under LIHEAP rules with the following DOE WAP rule(s) where LIHEAP and WAP rules differ: (Check all that apply.)

Income Threshold

Weatherization of entire multi-family housing structure is permitted if at least 66% of units (50% in 2- & 4-unit buildings) are eligible units or will become eligible within 180 days.

Weatherization of shelters temporarily housing primarily low income persons (excluding nursing homes, prisons, and similar institutional care facilities) is permitted.

Other (describe)

Mostly under DOE WAP rules, with the following LIHEAP rule(s) where LIHEAP and WAP rules differ: (Check all that apply.)

Income Threshold

Weatherization not subject to DOE WAP maximum statewide average cost per dwelling unit.

Weatherization measures are not subject to DOE Savings to Investment Ratio (SIR) standards.

Other (describe)

Eligibility, 2605(b)(5) – Assurance 5

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
5.6 Do you require an assets test?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.7 Do you have additional/differing eligibility policies for:		
• Renters?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Renters living in subsidized housing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.8 Do you give priority in eligibility to:		
• Elderly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Disabled?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Young children?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Households with high energy burdens?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Other?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Benefit Levels

5.9 Do you have a maximum LIHEAP weatherization benefit/expenditure per household?

Yes No

5.10 What is the maximum amount? \$ 7,105

Types of Assistance, 2605(c)(1), (B) & (D)

5.11 What LIHEAP weatherization measures do you provide? (Check all categories that apply.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weatherization needs assessments/audits | <input type="checkbox"/> Major appliance repairs |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caulking and insulation | <input type="checkbox"/> Major appliance replacement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Install storm windows | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Install windows/sliding glass doors |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heating system repairs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Install doors (interior/exterior) (<i>if broken</i>) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heating system replacement | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Install water heater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cooling system repairs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water conservation measures |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cooling system replacement | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compact florescent light bulbs |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy related roof repair | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) |

**All measures are based on a home energy audit and Priority Measure List*

Section 6: Outreach, 2605(b)(3) – Assurance 3, 2605(c)(3)(A)

6.1 Select all outreach activities that you conduct that are designed to assure that eligible households are made aware of all LIHEAP assistance available:

- Place posters/flyers in local and county social service offices, offices of aging, Social Security offices, VA, etc.
- Publish articles in local newspapers or broadcast media announcements.
- Include inserts in energy vendor billings to inform individuals of the availability of all types of LIHEAP assistance.
- Mass mailing(s) to prior-year LIHEAP recipients.
- Inform low income applicants of the availability of all types of LIHEAP assistance at application intake for other low-income programs.
- Execute interagency agreements with other low-income program offices to perform outreach to target groups.
- Other (specify):

Section 7: Coordination, 2605(b)(4) – Assurance 4

7.1 Describe how you will ensure that the LIHEAP program is coordinated with other programs available to low-income households (TANF, SSI, WAP, etc.)

- Joint application for multiple programs
- Intake referrals to/from other programs
- One-stop intake centers
- Other – describe:

Section 8: Agency Designation, 2605(b)(6) – Assurance 6

8.1 How would you categorize the primary responsibility of your State agency?

- Administration Agency
- Commerce Agency
- Community Services Agency
- Energy/Environment Agency
- Housing Agency
- Welfare Agency
- Other – describe:

Alternate Outreach and Intake, 2605(b)(15) – Assurance 15

8.2 How do you provide alternate outreach and intake for **HEATING ASSISTANCE**?

The State Agency also administers the State Welfare Program, however, different divisions administers the LIHEAP and Welfare Programs. The Division of Community Services partners with the Division of Economic Assistance, Division of Child Support and other divisions within the agency to ensure that low-income elderly, disabled families have access to all eligible services. All eighty-two counties across the state are serviced by qualified Case Manager/Caseworkers that provides outreach and intake services. The typical hours of operation for eligible entities are Monday-Friday from 7:30 am – 6:00 pm.

8.3 How do you provide alternate outreach and intake for **COOLING ASSISTANCE**?

The State Agency also administers the State Welfare Program, however, different divisions administers the LIHEAP and Welfare Programs. The Division of Community Services partners with the Division of Economic Assistance, Division of Child Support and other divisions within the agency to ensure that low-income elderly, disabled families have access to all eligible services. All eighty-two counties across the state are serviced by qualified Case Manager/Caseworkers that provides outreach and intake services. The typical hours of operations for eligible entities are Monday – Friday from 7:30 am – 6:00 pm.

8.4 How do you provide alternate outreach and intake for **CRISIS ASSISTANCE**?

The State Agency also administers the State Welfare Program, however, different divisions administers the LIHEAP and Welfare Programs. The Division of Community Services partners with the Division of Economic Assistance, Division of Child Support and other divisions within the agency to ensure that low-income elderly, disabled families have access to all eligible services. All eighty-two counties across the state are serviced by qualified Case Manager/Caseworkers that provides outreach and intake services. The typical hours of operations for eligible entities are Monday – Friday from 7:30 am – 6:00 pm.

	<u>Heating</u>	<u>Cooling</u>	<u>Crisis</u>	<u>Weatherization</u>
Who determines client eligibility?	CAA	CAA	CAA	CAA
Who processes benefit payments to gas and electric vendors?	CAA	CAA	CAA	N/A
Who processes benefit payments to bulk fuel vendors?	CAA	CAA	CAA	N/A
Who performs installation of weatherization measures?	N/A	N/A	N/A	CAA

8.5 What is your process for selecting local administering agencies?

We have chosen agencies based on prior experience administering similar programs. Agencies must submit a successful proposal for review, comply with audit requirements and have satisfactory performance reviews.

8.6 How many local administering agencies do you use?

20

8.7 Have you changed any local administering agencies from last year?

Yes No

8.8 Why?

Agency was in noncompliance with grantee requirements for LIHEAP

Agency is under criminal investigation

Added agency

Agency closed

Other - describe

Section 9: Energy Suppliers, 2605(b)(7) – Assurance 7

9.1 Do you make payments directly to home energy suppliers?

Heating Yes No

Cooling Yes No

Crisis Yes No

Are there exceptions? Yes No

9.2 How do you notify the client of the amount of assistance paid?

Agencies must provide written notification to clients regarding the status of their application within 72 days of application for services. The notification letter must be scanned into Virtual ROMA and a copy placed into client's file. In the case of an emergency, this notification should occur within 24 hours of application for services. The person who approves the request in Virtual ROMA should generate the letter and complete the form.

If a client's application is denied, the agency must provide written explanation with the reason for the denial. The Fair Hearing Process Form must be included in the letter sent to the client. The person who approves the request in Virtual ROMA should generate the letter and complete the form. It is up to the agency if it wishes to establish an internal policy for additional management oversight.

9.3 How do you assure that the home energy supplier will charge the eligible household, in the normal billing process, the difference between the actual cost of the home energy and the amount of the payment?

Vendor Agreements the CAA has with the energy supplier.

9.4 How do you assure that no household receiving assistance under this title will be treated adversely because of their receipt of LIHEAP assistance?

Vendor Agreements the CAA has with the energy supplier.

9.5 Do you make payments contingent on unregulated vendors taking appropriate measures to alleviate the energy burdens of eligible households?

Yes No. If so, how?

Section 10: Program, Fiscal Monitoring, and Audit, 2605(b)(10) – Assurance 10

10.1. How do you ensure good fiscal accounting and tracking of LIHEAP funds?

See Fiscal Accounting and Tracking requirements Attachment.

Audit Process

10.2. Is your LIHEAP program audited annually under the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?

Yes No

10.3. Describe any audit findings rising to the level of material weakness or reportable condition cited in the A-133 audits, Grantee monitoring assessments, inspector general reviews, or other government agency reviews of the LIHEAP agency from the most recently audited federal fiscal year.

Finding	Type	Brief Summary	Resolved?	Action Taken
1 <i>FFATA Reporting</i>	<i>See Attachment</i>	<i>See Attachment</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>
2				
3				
4				
5				

10.4. Audits of Local Administering Agencies

- What types of annual audit requirements do you have in place for local administering agencies/district offices?
 - Local agencies/district offices are required to have an annual audit in compliance with the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133.
 - Local agencies/district offices are required to have an annual audit (other than A-133).
 - Local agencies/district offices’ A-133 or other independent audits are reviewed by Grantee as part of compliance process.
 - Grantee conducts fiscal and program monitoring of local agencies/district offices.

Compliance Monitoring

10.5. Describe the Grantee's strategies for monitoring compliance with the Grantee's and Federal LIHEAP policies and procedures by:

Grantee employees:

- Internal program review
- Departmental oversight
- Secondary review of invoices and payments
- Other program review mechanisms are in place. Describe:

Local Administering Agencies/District Offices:

- On-site evaluation
- Annual program review
- Monitoring through Central Database
- Desk reviews
- Client File Testing/Sampling
- Other program review mechanisms are in place. Describe:

10.6. Explain, or attach a copy of, your local agency monitoring schedule and protocol.

See MDHS Program Integrity (Monitoring) and DCS (T&TA) attachment

10.7. Describe how you select local agencies for monitoring reviews?

Site Visits: All are monitored

Desk Reviews: 10 each year for T&TA. However, monthly reports are reviewed.

10.8. How often is each local agency monitored?

Yearly

10.9. What is the combined error rate for eligibility determinations?

None

10.10. What is the combined error rate for benefit determinations?

None

10.11. How many local agencies are currently on corrective action plans for eligibility and/or benefit determination issues?

None

10.12. How many local agencies are currently on corrective action plans for financial accounting or administrative issues?

One

Section 11: Timely and Meaningful Public Participation, 2605(b)(12) – Assurance 12, 2605(c)(2)

11.1 How did you obtain input from the public in the development of your LIHEAP plan?
Check all that apply:

- Tribal Council meeting(s)
- Public Hearing(s)
- Draft Plan posted to website and available for comment
- Hard copy of plan is available for public view and comment
- Comments from applicants are recorded
- Request for comments on draft Plan is advertised
- Stakeholder consultation meeting(s)
- Comments are solicited during outreach activities
- Other, describe:

11.2 What changes did you make to your LIHEAP plan as a result of this participation?

TBD

Public Hearings, 2605(a)(2)

11.3 List the date(s) and location(s) that you held public hearing(s) on the proposed use and distribution of your LIHEAP funds?

Date	Event Description
June 9, 2015	Mississippi Department of Human Services, 750 North State Street, New Training Room A, Jackson, MS 39202

11.4 How many parties commented on your plan at the hearing(s)?

TBD

11.5 Summarize the comments you received at the hearing(s).

TBD

11.6 What changes did you make to your LIHEAP plan as a result of the public hearing(s)?

TBD

Section 12: Fair Hearings, 2605(b)(13) – Assurance 13

12.1 How many fair hearings did the grantee have in the prior Federal fiscal year?

None

12.2 How many of those fair hearings resulted in the initial decision being reversed?

None

12.3 Describe any policy and/or procedural changes made in the last Federal fiscal year as a result of fair hearings?

None

12.4 Describe your fair hearing procedures for **households whose applications are denied.**

See Fair Hearing Policy Attachment

12.5 When and how are applicants informed of these rights?

Clients are informed of the Fair Hearing Process during orientation and/or intake process at the CAA. Upon denial of services, a copy of the Fair Hearing Process will be mailed with the denial letter to the applicant. The process for fair hearings is clearly posted in county offices.

12.6 Describe your fair hearing procedures for **households whose applications are not acted on in a timely manner.**

See Fair Hearing Policy Attachment

12.7 When and how are applicants informed of these rights?

Clients are informed of the Fair Hearing Process during orientation and/or intake process at the CAA. Upon denial of services, a copy of the Fair Hearing Process will be mailed with the denial letter to the applicant. The process for fair hearings is clearly posted in county offices.

Section 13: Reduction of home energy needs, 2605(b)(16) – Assurance 16

- 13.1 Describe how you use LIHEAP funds to provide services that encourage and enable households to reduce their home energy needs and thereby the need for energy assistance?

LIHEAP funds are used to conduct consumer education classes, vendor-sponsored workshops, and low-cost, no cost weatherization measures to eligible clients.

- 13.2 How do you ensure that you don't use more than 5% of your LIHEAP funds for these activities?

The State of Mississippi is aware of the limitation and assures that the 5% statutory ceiling requirement for assurance 16 will not be violated based on the allocation awarded to subgrantees and the Request for Cash and Reporting Worksheet.

- 13.3 Describe the impact of such activities on the number of households served in the previous Federal fiscal year.

A total of 44,451 households were impacted by activities that included: consumer education classes, vendor-sponsored workshops, low-cost, no-cost weatherization measures for clients eligible for the program.

- 13.4 Describe the level of direct benefits provided to those households in the previous Federal fiscal year.

Information was not captured.

- 13.5 How many households applied for these services?

44,451

- 13.6 How many households received these services?

44,451

Section 14: Leveraging Incentive Program, 2607A

14.1 Do you plan to submit an application for the leveraging incentive program?

Yes No

14.2 Describe instructions to the third parties and/or local agencies for submitting LIHEAP leveraging resource information and retaining records.

See Below

14.3 For each type of resource and/or benefit to be leveraged in the upcoming year that will meet the requirements of 45 C.F.R. § 96.87(d)(2)(iii), describe the following:

What is the type of resource or benefit?	What is the source(s) of the resource?	How will the resource be integrated and coordinated with the LIHEAP program?
<i>See Below</i>	<i>See Below</i>	<i>See Below</i>

The State shall participate in the LIHEAP Leveraging Program. The State and local subgrantees will solicit non-federal dollars in order to qualify to compete for leveraging incentive funds. Based on 2015 leveraging amounts, the State plans to leverage a minimum of 10 percent or more in FY 2016. Several organizations, individuals, etc. will be contacted to make cash and in-kind contributions, such as discounts, arrearage forgiveness, fuel funds, credit, volunteer, WX materials, waivers: disconnections, deposits and reconnect fees, etc.

The State coordinates leveraging with the LIHEAP program to provide consumer education with our clients to encourage them to conserve energy and the disadvantages of getting services interrupted. Leveraging resources also provide additional services to more clients in LIHEAP. Coordination also compliments our budget program in LIHEAP to allow clients to better manage resources.

**Leveraged resources/benefits that are counted under criterion (iii) in 45 CFR 96.87(d)(2) must be identified and described in the grantees LIHEAP plan and distributed as indicated in the plan. In addition, leveraging resources/benefits that are counted under criterion (ii) must be carried out under one or more components of the grantee’s regular LIHEAP program*

Section 15: Training

15.1. Describe the training you provide for each of the following groups:

a. Grantee Staff:

Formal training on grantee policies and procedures

How often?

Annually

Biannually

As needed

Other – Describe:

Employees are provided with policy manual

Other – Describe:

b. Local Agencies:

Formal training conference

How often?

Annually

Biannually

As needed

Other – Describe:

On-site training

How often?

Annually

Biannually

As needed

Other – Describe:

Employees are provided with policy manual

Other – Describe:

c. Vendors

Formal training conference

How often?

Annually

Biannually

As needed

Other – Describe:

Policies communicated through vendor agreements

Policies are outlined in a vendor manual

Other – Describe:

15.2. Does your training program address fraud reporting and prevention?

Yes

No

Section 16: Performance Goals and Measures, 2605(b)

- 16.1 Describe performance goals and measures that will be tracked for the upcoming Federal fiscal year.

See LIHEAP Service Delivery Plan Attachment

- 16.2 Summarize results of performance goals and measures for the prior Federal fiscal year.

See LIHEAP Service Delivery Plan Attachment

Section 17: Program Integrity, 2605(b)(10)**17.1 Fraud Reporting Mechanisms**

- a. Describe all mechanisms available to the public for reporting cases of suspected waste, fraud, and abuse.

Online Fraud Reporting

Dedicated Fraud Reporting Hotline

Report directly to local agency/district office or Grantee office

Report to State Inspector General or Attorney General

Forms and procedures in place for local agencies/district offices and vendors to report fraud, waste, and abuse.

Other – describe:

- b. Describe strategies in place for advertising the above-referenced resources.

Printed outreach materials

Addressed on LIHEAP application

Website

Other – describe:

Orientation

17.2 Identification Documentation Requirements

a. Indicate which of the following forms of identification are required or requested to be collected from LIHEAP applicants or their household members.

REQUIRED Type of Identification Collected	Collected from Whom?		
	Applicant Only	All Adults in HH	HH Members Seeking Assistance*
Social Security Card is photocopied and retained	Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Requested <input type="checkbox"/>	Requested <input type="checkbox"/>	Requested <input type="checkbox"/>
Social Security Number (without actual card)	Required <input type="checkbox"/>	Required <input type="checkbox"/>	Required <input type="checkbox"/>
	Requested <input type="checkbox"/>	Requested <input type="checkbox"/>	Requested <input type="checkbox"/>
Government-issued identification card (i.e.: driver’s license, state ID, Tribal ID, passport, etc.)	Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Required <input type="checkbox"/>
	Requested <input type="checkbox"/>	Requested <input type="checkbox"/>	Requested <input type="checkbox"/>
Other: <i>Birth Certificates</i>	Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*Households may include members who are not seeking assistance and may not be included in the household count.

b. Describe any exceptions to the above policies.

Exceptions for new born.

17.3 Identification Verification

Describe what methods are used to verify the authenticity of identification documents provided by clients or household members.

- Verify SSNs with Social Security Administration
- Match SSNs with death records from Social Security Administration or state agency
- Match SSNs with state eligibility/management system (e.g., SNAP, TANF)
- Match with state Department of Labor system
- Match with state and/or federal corrections system
- Match with state child support system

- Verification using private software (e.g., The Work Number)
- In-person certification by staff
- Match SSN/Tribal ID number with tribal database
- Other – describe:

In Person Verification

17.4 Citizenship/Legal Residency Verification

What are your procedures for ensuring that household members are U.S. citizens or aliens who are qualified to receive LIHEAP benefits?

- Clients sign an attestation of citizenship or legal residency
- Clients' submission of Social Security cards is accepted as proof of legal residency
- Noncitizens must provide documentation of immigration status
- Citizens must provide a copy of their birth certificate, naturalization papers, or passport
- Noncitizens are verified through the SAVE system
- Tribal members are verified through Tribal database/Tribal ID card
- Other – describe:

17.5 Income Verification

What methods does your agency utilize to verify household income?

- Require documentation of income for all adult household members
 - Pay stubs
 - Social Security award letters
 - Bank statements
 - Tax statements
 - Zero-income statements
 - Unemployment Insurance letters

- Other – describe:
- Computer data matches:
 - Income information matched against state computer system (e.g., SNAP, TANF)
 - Proof of unemployment benefits verified with state Department of Labor
 - Social Security income verified with SSA
 - Utilize state directory of new hires
- Other – describe:

17.6 Protection of Privacy and Confidentiality

Describe the financial and operating controls in place to protect client information against improper use or disclosure.

- Policy in place prohibiting release of information without written consent
- Grantee LIHEAP database includes privacy/confidentiality safeguards
- Employee training on confidentiality for:
 - Grantee employees
 - Local agencies/district offices
- Employees must sign confidentiality agreement
 - Grantee employees
 - Local agencies/district offices
- Physical files are stored in a secure location
- Other – describe:

17.7 Verifying the Authenticity of Energy Vendors

What policies are in place for verifying vendor authenticity?

- All vendors must register with the State
- All vendors must supply a valid SSN or TIN/W-9 form
- Vendors are verified through energy bills provided by the household
- Grantee and/or local agencies/district offices perform physical monitoring of vendors
- Other – describe, and note any exceptions to policies above:

17.8 Benefits Policy – Gas and Electric Utilities

What policies are in place to protect against fraud when making benefit payments to gas and electric utilities on behalf of clients?

- Applicants required to submit proof of physical residency
- Applicants must submit current utility bill
- Data exchange with utilities that verifies:
 - Account ownership
 - Consumption
 - Balances
 - Payment history
 - Account is properly credited with benefit
 - Other – describe:
- Centralized computer system/database tracks payments to all utilities
- Centralized computer system automatically generates benefit level
- Separation of duties between intake and payment approval
- Payments coordinated among other heating assistance programs to avoid duplication of payments

- Payments to utilities and invoices from utilities are reviewed for accuracy
- Computer databases are periodically reviewed to verify accuracy and timeliness of payments made to utilities
- Direct payment to households are made in limited cases only
- Procedures are in place to require prompt refunds from utilities in cases of account closure
- Vendor agreements specify requirements selected above, and provide enforcement mechanism
- Other – describe:

17.9 **Benefits Policy — Bulk Fuel Vendors**

What procedures are in place for averting fraud and improper payments when dealing with bulk fuel suppliers of heating oil, propane, wood, and other bulk fuel vendors?

- Vendors are checked against an approved vendors list
- Centralized computer system/database is used to track payments to all vendors
- Clients are relied on for reports of non-delivery or partial delivery
- Two-party checks are issued naming client and vendor
- Direct payment to households are made in limited cases only
- Conduct monitoring of bulk fuel vendors
- Bulk fuel vendors are required to submit reports to the Grantee
- Vendor agreements specify requirements selected above, and provide enforcement mechanism
- Other – describe:

We do not have bulk fuel vendors in LIHEAP program.

17.10 Investigations and Prosecutions

Describe the Grantee's procedures for investigating and prosecuting reports of fraud, and any sanctions placed on clients/staff/vendors found to have committed fraud.

- Refer to state Inspector General
- Refer to local prosecutor or state Attorney General
- Refer to US DHHS Inspector General (including referral to OIG hotline)
- Local agencies/district offices or Grantee conduct investigation of fraud complaints from public
- Grantee attempts collection of improper payments. If so, describe the recoupment process.

See Waste, Fraud & Abuse Policy

- Clients found to have committed fraud are banned from LIHEAP assistance. For how long is a household banned?

See Waste, Fraud & Abuse Policy

- Contracts with local agencies require that employees found to have committed fraud are reprimanded and/or terminated

See Waste, Fraud & Abuse Policy

- Vendors found to have committed fraud may no longer participate in LIHEAP

See Waste, Fraud & Abuse Policy

- Other – describe:

Attachments

ATTACHMENT-ELIGIBILITY

Statutory Reference 2605 (b) (5)
2605 (b) (2)
2605 (b) (8) (A)
2605(b) (10)

The State assures through Virtual ROMA that it will provide, in a timely manner, the highest level of assistance to those households (with the highest home energy needs which takes into account both the energy burden and the unique situation of the vulnerable population) which have the lowest incomes and the highest home energy cost in relation to income, taking into account family size, except that the State may not differentiate in implementing this section between the households described in the above referenced clauses.

The State further assures that it will not differentiate in the treatment of households eligible for services because of their income and as the recipients of TANF, Food Stamps, SSI or certain means-tested veterans program certified as “categorically eligible”. This applies to all LIHEAP components (cooling, heating, crisis and weatherization).

The specific measures to ensure there is no difference in eligibility determination and benefit amounts is not to use categorical eligibility in all components. All applicant households must complete the established application process, case management process and eligibility determination.

The utilization of Virtual ROMA has resulted in additional fiscal control tracking capabilities for LIHEAP funds by:

- All LIHEAP funds expended must originate via Virtual ROMA.
- LIHEAP payments only occur based on client services that are in “approved” status in Virtual ROMA.
- Greater visibility by State to view, monitor and track fiscal process and payment on a state-wide basis across agencies.
- Programmatic staff must work closely with fiscal staff to determine timeframe for payment so that program reports are generated for the specified timeframe and given to fiscal.
- Fiscal compares, reviews and authorizes payment report before any payment. Any discrepancies identified between Program Reports and the electronic payment files are reconciled by Fiscal and Program before payment occurs.
- Virtual ROMA prohibits approvals from unauthorized program users and restricts any Fiscal User from the ability to approve client services.
- Energy vendors who are registered users of Virtual ROMA are able to review their clients’ approved amounts and compare to ensure accuracy of amounts and clients’ accounts.

ATTACHMENT- ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFIT DETERMINATION**Statutory Reference 2605 (B) (2)**

Each applicant household requesting for LIHEAP assistance must complete application process for eligibility determination. The application process involves a **case management approach**. This approach is an interaction between the client and a caseworker/manager. During the interaction process caseworker/case manager obtains vital information about social and economic conditions of the entire household. This process assists in identifying households' needs including those with high energy burdens. It also helps to identify those households that are at risk or in crisis so that a **service plan** can be developed to assist these households to become stable and self-reliant. Elderly and disabled are not required to participate in case management. Our policy requires an earlier appointment date for vulnerable households.

Income eligibility is set at or below 60% of the State Median Income guidelines that are in effect at the time of submission of the application. An application is taken on the applicant household by the local subgrantee agencies. All applications must be taken in the Virtual ROMA system. Assistance from another program may also be provided to eligible households, especially those households enrolled in and complying with the established service plan. If an eligible client declared zero income in prior year and is in compliance with their case management plan, the client's case must be reassessed before monetary assistance can be provided. If the client declared zero income in prior year and is not in compliance with the case management plan, the caseworker must show all attempts to assist the client in their efforts, but is not required to provide monetary assistance. Should a client who enrolled in case management fail to comply with the mutually agreed upon goals established in the service plan without a legitimate reason(s), cash assistance may be discontinued until there is evidence of compliance or legitimate reason(s). No cash assistance will be provided if a custodial parent (client) fail to provide evidence that he/she has or is willing to pursue child support from the absent parent or is out of compliance with TANF or other public assistance programs. However, other non-financial assistance such as case management, referral, etc. may be provided. If a client has a two month bill, an eligible household may receive energy assistance for their current month's bill. The client is responsible for past due amount before agency can make a payment. Emergency situations may be reviewed by agency Supervisor and client may receive assistance for prior month bill. If an energy bill is in the deceased spouse's name, the current head of household may be eligible for energy assistance. However, case managers will assist the client with changing the bill into the living spouse's name where and when possible.

This year, the state has decreased its maximum benefit amount for LIHEAP assistance. A household cannot receive more than \$1,500 in benefits for the program year. Total benefit for year (can be divided between heating, cooling or crisis). This amount may be adjusted from year to year based on the state's allocation. An exception will be given to weatherization clients in need of a heating/cooling unit. The cost of the unit is not included in the \$1,500 maximum benefit amount.

Priority is given to the elderly and disabled. In elderly/disabled zero income cases or crisis cases, clients will be assisted with LIHEAP and service plan done to access any resources available to

the client, such as social security, disability, prescription assistance, etc. Live-in attendants income can be excluded if it is determined that (1) the live-in is essential to the care and well-being of the person; and (2) would not be living in the unit except to provide the necessary supportive services.

NOTE: A Case Plan is a process whereby a client and a case worker/manager jointly establish goal(s) designed to enhance the client's educational and job opportunities in order for the client to become stable, self-sufficient or thriving. The level of cash amount to be awarded to eligible households depends on the applicant's bill amount, the result of case management analysis and degree of participation on the established case plan.

ATTACHMENT-COORDINATION OF LIHEAP ACTIVITIES**Statutory reference 2605 (b) (4)**

The State agrees to coordinate its activities under this title with similar and related programs administered by the Federal Government and the State, particularly low-income energy-related programs under Subtitle B of Title VI (relating to Community Services Block Grant Program), under the Supplemental Security Income Program under Part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act, under Title XX of the Social Security Act, under the Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program, under Title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act, or under any other provision of law which carries out programs which were administered under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, before the date of the enactment of this Act.

The Division of Community Services (DCS) of the Mississippi Department of Human Services administers LIHEAP, the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), and the Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). By operating these programs under one division, it provides high potential for enhancing coordination. Also, it minimizes duplication of services between LIHEAP and other related programs under the Social Security Act, the Energy Conservation and Production Act and other related programs which are administered under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. A referral mechanism is in place (through the case management approach) to refer to, and receive referrals from other social service providers and energy vendors. LIHEAP clients identified as high energy users due to the poor condition of their homes are referred to the Weatherization Assistance Program, and priority is given to elderly and disabled individuals. Also the program is coordinated with the United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development, Housing and Urban Development and local city governments.

Other forms of coordination involves soliciting local funds as leveraging from organizations, individuals, philanthropy agencies and energy vendors. The leveraging funds generated are used to maintain the level of service or to assist additional eligible clients. Subgrantees are encouraged to participate in leveraging local funds to supplement LIHEAP.

DCS will use one automated intake application for all the programs (LIHEAP, WAP, and CSBG), called the Virtual ROMA Tracking System. In addition, each applicant household's case folder (personal data information) is placed in one file known as a single filing system. The one intake application process and single filing system are viable means of coordinating efforts. It has the potential of cost savings. Another attribute is it enhances a case management approach by allowing licensed social workers, case workers, and case managers the opportunity to do a more thorough and comprehensive assessment of the economic and social conditions of all the household members and to provide service(s) accordingly for the attainment of stability and self-sufficiency.

ATTACHMENT- CRISIS ASSISTANCE**Statutory reference 2604(c), 2605(c)(1)(A)**

Mississippi offers a crisis assistance component through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Specifically, The **Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP)** provides assistance to low-income households that are in a crisis situation. Funds and financial assistance are made available year round to help individuals who are out of options, and who are therefore in a crisis situation. These individuals may be about to have their utility or heating service disconnected, they may have run out of heating fuel, are faced with extreme summer temperatures, or have some other emergency.

- Life Threatening Crisis Must be Relieved in 18 Hours
 - Eligible households with a life-threatening energy crisis, must have the crisis relieved within 18 hours of an approved application.
 - Resolution of a crisis include but are not limited to: arranging for an immediate supply of fuel, securing flexible payment arrangements with the energy supplier, pledging the benefit and therefore preventing shutoff, or purchase of portable space heater or air conditioner.
 - The Division of Community Services deems Life Threatening Crisis situations as:
 1. Natural disaster (Fire, tornado, flood, etc.), and extreme inclement weather conditions as determined by the National Weather Service
 2. Person(s) on life support or medical devices that require electricity
 3. Domestic Violence
 4. Elderly Abuse
- Non-Life Threatening Crisis Must be Relieved in 48 Hours
 - Eligible households with a non-life threatening energy crisis, must have the crisis relieved within 48 hours of an approved application.
 - Resolution of a non-life threatening crisis include but are not limited to: arranging for an immediate supply of fuel, securing flexible payment arrangements with the energy supplier, pledging the benefit and therefore preventing shutoff, or purchase of portable space heater or air conditioner.
 - The Division of Community Services deems Non-Life Threatening Crisis situations as:

1. Unexpected expense (Death of immediate family member, funeral expense, high medical expense, etc.)
 2. Income loss within last 30 days due to layoff or consequences resulting in termination of benefits.
 3. Services are disconnected for a household with children under six (6), elderly or disabled persons.
- Clients who are waiting on an approval/eligibility determination must be referred to other community organizations, programs that may be able to assist, emergency shelters/ hotels, and relationships should be established with energy vendors to prevent shut-off.

Clients who are found ineligible for crisis benefits must be referred to other community organizations or other programs that may be able to help.

ATTCAHMENT-RENTERS POLICY

Statutory reference 2605(c)(1)(A), (2605(b)(2)

Renters

The applicant should provide either a copy of their lease; a written, signed notarized statement from the landlord detailing the heating/cooling arrangement with the client; or collateral contract with the landlord that verifies the heating/cooling arrangement the landlord has with the household.

Renters with utilities included in the rent and Renters living in subsidized housing

Persons/households residing in public/subsidized housing have their eligibility determined the same as a persons/household living in a non-public housing dwelling unless their rent/mortgage includes utilities and they are not being billed separately for energy cost. These households are ineligible for energy assistance benefits.

Roomers/Boarders

Roomer/boarder status is given to an individual who is not a required household member and is paying the client to reside in their residence. To qualify as a roomer/boarder, the applicant/household must be the homeowner. Roomer/boarder payments are countable income as long as they are considered a profit to the household. Do not give roomer/boarder status to

- Anyone whose income can be applied to the household, or
- Any person who is involved in a relationship with a household member (i.e., boyfriend, girlfriend, etc.), or
- Any individual who is merely sharing expenses and the household is not making a profit.

ATTACHMENT-PROGRAM, FISCAL MONITORING AND AUDIT**Statutory reference 2605 (b)(10)****Fiscal, Accounting and Tracking Requirements**

The State requires all local Subgrantees requesting LIHEAP funds to submit Monthly Reporting Worksheets. These Reporting Worksheets show expenditures such as Program Assistance (regular), ECIP, Program Support and Administration. They also show expenditures by cost category and line items. Documentation from Virtual ROMA will be required to support costs reflected on Reporting Worksheets and Requests for Cash as a means to adhere to mandates by DPI to monitor costs reported for the month. Also, Requests for Cash are submitted based on current needs. Federal funds made available to the State under this title will disburse administrative and programmatic funds to local Subgrantees in accordance with the LIHEAP Statute, and the overall contractual allocation for each subgrantee regulates the maximum allowable expenditures. Procedural manuals are in place which covers a range of fiscal and accounting rules and regulations with which Subgrantees must comply. Also, to further account for LIHEAP federal funds, 19 of 20 DCS Subgrantees use the same accounting software, GMS, which allows tracking through Virtual ROMA. It allows easy access in training new personnel, as well as existing personnel in the effective use of the GMS software and DCS requirements. DCS requires that Subgrantees use the MS State Personnel Board policies and procedures in filling vacant financial positions. These procedures assure that eligible entities require at least the minimum qualifications outlined by the MS State Personnel Board in order to maintain qualified financial staff. Subgrantees will not be required to replace existing staff who have already been employed in these positions, however, eligible entities must assure that existing staff is properly trained to function in their current capacity.

Local subgrantees are required to have and submit an annual audit performed annually by an independent Certified Public Accountant. Also, the State complies with the Single Audit Act requirement.

Subgrants will be monitored annually by the Division of Program Integrity. Periodic reviews to the subgrantee, both announced and unannounced will be conducted by the Division of Community Services.

The State continuously provides training and technical assistance to the subgrantees on program and fiscal management to enhance program compliance and quality service delivery to eligible households. DCS program and fiscal staff also conduct special training targeted at new subgrantee staff to ensure program compliance.

Audit Findings

Immaterial Noncompliance
Material Weakness

93.568 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
Federal Award Number and Year: G13B1MSLIEAW 2013
G13B1MSLIEAR 2013
G14B1MSLIEAW 2014
G14B1MSLIEAR 2014

Questioned Costs: None

2014-012 Controls Should Be Strengthened Over Compliance With Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) Requirements for the SSBG and LIHEAP Programs

Response:

The Mississippi Department of Human Services concurs that controls should be strengthened over compliance with Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) Requirements.

1. Regarding the LIHEAP subawards reporting the effective date and not the date signed as the obligation date, due to lack of training, the Division of Community Services (DCS) misinterpreted the requirement that the obligation date of the subawards for FFATA reporting purposes should be the date subawards are signed and not the beginning effective date of the subaward. Reporting the effective date caused the reporting to not be submitted timely.
2. Regarding the seven subawards awarded by DCS, these subawards were not reported due to the appropriate staff not receiving the required information needed to enter them into FFATA and the lack of training with all staff involved resulted in a failure to comply with FFATA reporting requirements.

Corrective Action Plan:

The Division of Community Service has entered all of the contracts that had not been reported as of August 14, 2014. The Division has incorporated a file system and a second level supervisory review to ensure all information that is reported into FFATA is correct and reported timely. All contract subaward obligation dates are being reported as the date the contract was signed per the Subgrant Signature Sheet. However, subawards being reported by the last day of the month following the obligation date, is still a challenge due to the MAGIC system.

Internal controls have been put into place to insure that all staff involved with some portion of compiling the FFATA report are aware of the timeliness and sensitivity in which the information should reported.

ATTACHMENT-LIHEAP SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN**Statutory reference 2605 (b)**

The LIHEAP statute identifies the following group of low-income households below as having the “highest home energy needs”:

- **High Burden Households:** High burden households are those households with the lowest incomes and highest home energy costs. The concern is that such households will face safety risks in trying to heat or cool their home if they cannot pay their heating or cooling bills. Safety risks can include use of makeshift heating sources or inoperative/faulty heating or cooling equipment that can lead to indoor fires, sickness, or asphyxiation.

Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has included in its LIHEAP performance plan the program goal of “increasing the availability of LIHEAP fuel assistance to vulnerable and high burden households whose health and/or safety are endangered by living in a home without sufficient heating or cooling.” ACF has translated the program goal into the following explicit targeting performance goals of increasing the targeting index of:

- LIHEAP recipient households having at least one member 60 years or older compared to non-vulnerable LIHEAP recipient households;
- LIHEAP recipient households having at least one member five years or younger compared to non-vulnerable LIHEAP recipient households; and
- LIHEAP recipient high-energy burden households compared to LIHEAP recipient low-energy burden households.

LIHEAP’s targeting performance is a proxy measure for health and safety outcomes. Improving targeting performance for eligible vulnerable households can help such households avoid serious health risks if they cannot afford to adequately heat or cool their homes.

ATTACHMENT-LIHEAP SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN**Statutory reference 2605 (b)**

LIHEAP Performance Measures

The State will comply with reporting on the LIHEAP Performance Measures for FFY 2016. Coordination with the 5 largest electric vendors and 5 largest gas vendors in the state will enable the state to provide data for the LIHEAP Performance Measures report due at the end of FFY 2016.

Data will be collected on the three major areas of the Performance Measures Report:

1. Energy Burden
2. Restoration of home energy service
3. Prevention of loss of home energy service

LIHEAP Objectives

Each agency **must** address the six LIHEAP goals shown in the attached goal section and each LIHEAP goal and outcome measure **must be quantified**. Agencies must ensure that they have reviewed previous year totals to estimate more accurate totals for upcoming year. The LIHEAP goals and objectives should be integrated and reported as part of Virtual ROMA. All clients with high energy burdens **must** be referred to Weatherization.

A. GOAL

To target and provide financial assistance and consumer education to all low income households being served, taking into account both energy consumption and vulnerability of one or more household members (disabled, elderly and children) while at the same time reducing the client's burden of energy costs/consumption.

Note: The goals may be measured by one or more of the following outcome measures as shown after each goal. Each Agency may select one or more of the outcome measures for each goal. Quantify the number of clients to be assisted under each goal.

OUTCOME MEASURES

1. Stabilize clients after LIHEAP and/or weatherization assistance.
2. Stabilize the vulnerable (disabled, elderly, and children) targeted households served, as well as those involved in case management to become self-sufficient.

MEASURABLE ACTIVITIES

1. Obtain energy statements and/or bills of clients 6 months before and 6 months after energy assistance. Calculate and compare the statements and/or bills for the (12) month period, paying particular attention to justify the increase and decrease of the clients' statements and/or bills. Maintain an accurate record and/or bills of clients 6 months before and 6 months after energy assistance. Calculate and compare the statements and/or bills for the (12) month period, paying particular attention to justify the increase and decrease of the clients' statements and/or bills.
2. Provide counseling and maintain an accurate record of energy consumption orientations and private individual sessions. Maintain an accurate record of LIHEAP households who completed financial assistance/counseling sessions.
3. Maintain an accurate record of the number of clients referred to the Weatherization Assistance Program that actually received services.

B. GOAL

To increase energy affordability for LIHEAP recipient households.

OUTCOME MEASURES

1. Increase the number of households participating in the vendor- sponsored low-income programs, for example, vendor participation workshops.
2. Increase the number of previously served LIHEAP recipients making regular utility payments to vendor/suppliers.

MEASURABLE ACTIVITIES

1. Obtain from vendors a copy of the clients' payments 6 months before and 6 months after energy assistance for a comparison analysis.
2. Maintain an accurate record of the clients participating in vendor- sponsored programs.
3. Provide counseling and maintain an accurate record of energy conservation orientations and provide individual sessions.

C. GOAL

To increase efficiency of energy consumption for LIHEAP recipient households.

OUTCOME MEASURES

1. Increase the serviceable number of LIHEAP recipient households weatherized, including low/no-cost energy related home repair(s).
2. Increase the number of LIHEAP recipient households practicing energy conservation and receiving energy counseling and/or education.
3. Decrease the number of repeat LIHEAP households requiring intense targeting for regular assistance or crisis intervention.

MEASURABLE ACTIVITIES

1. Maintain an accurate record of the number of recipient households that were served.
2. Maintain an accurate record of the number of referrals to other programs/services.
3. Maintain an accurate record of the number of recipient households practicing effective energy conservation from the “client survey”.
4. Maintain an accurate record of the number of clients whose energy burden was reduced due to LIHEAP in combination with other energy resources, i.e., utility discounts.

D. GOAL

Perform leveraging activities to serve additional LIHEAP clients or provide a greater level of assistance to stabilize clients.

OUTCOME MEASURES

1. Serve additional LIHEAP clients.
2. Increase leveraging activities to generate a minimum amount of 15% of funds from the prior year to serve additional LIHEAP clients.
3. Solicit non-federal funds from philanthropic organizations.
4. Solicit in-kind gifts from philanthropic organizations and individuals.

MEASURABLE ACTIVITIES

1. Maintain an accurate number of LIHEAP clients served from leveraged funds.
2. Maintain an accurate listing of solicitations and funds received from foundations, corporations, and organizations.
3. Maintain an accurate number of households who were referred to non-LIHEAP energy related programs.

E. GOAL

To perform whole-house weatherization measures to a designated number of homes using LIHEAP funds, targeting households in which at least one member is elderly, disabled or a small child to reduce the energy cost/consumption of the household.

OUTCOME MEASURES

1. To decrease the energy cost/consumption of low-income households.
2. To increase the indoor quality of the homes of low-income households by addressing health and safety issues within the home.

MEASURABLE ACTIVITIES

1. Provide consumer education to household members participating and maintain record of all sessions.
2. Maintain an accurate record of the make-up of all households participating to include vulnerable household members.
3. Obtain statements from an adult household member to verify if the weatherization measures completed on the home have made a noticeable difference in the heating/cooling of the home.
4. Obtain energy bills for participating households for comparison over a 6-month period to observe actual increases/decreases in energy cost/consumption.

F. GOAL

Low income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by Strengthening Family and Other Supportive Services.

OUTCOME MEASURES

1. To increase the number of low-income individuals or families served by Community Action that sought emergency assistance and increase the percentage of those households for which assistance was provided, including LIHEAP.
2. To increase the number of vulnerable population showing improvement as a result of receiving LIHEAP assistance or benefit.
3. To increase the number of households for which LIHEAP assistance avoids a loss of energy service.
4. Increase the number of households in crisis whose emergency needs are ameliorated due to LIHEAP assistance or benefit.
5. Increase the number of high consumption households realizing a reduction in energy burden as a result of receiving LIHEAP assistance or benefit and increase the number of households for which LIHEAP assistance avoids a loss of energy service.
6. Increase the number of LIHEAP recipients making regular payments to energy suppliers as a result of financial counseling and increase the number of LIHEAP recipient households who received low/no cost energy related home repair through WAP.
7. Increase the number of LIHEAP households who completed financial assistance/counseling sessions.

MEASURABLE ACTIVITIES

1. Maintain an accurate record of the number of individuals or families that sought emergency assistance and note the percentage of those households assisted.
2. Maintain an accurate record of the number of households whereby supportive services were provided.
3. Maintain an accurate record of the households that avoided energy service

ATTACHMENT-MDHS PROGRAM INTEGRITY (MONITORING)**Statutory Reference 2605(b)(10)****MONITORING**

The Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) is required to monitor the activities of its subgrantees by following the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*, and the OMB Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement. MDHS shall monitor each project, program, subgrant, function, or activity supported by a Federal award to assure compliance with applicable Federal regulations and that performance goals are achieved.

POLICY

MDHS has established uniform monitoring policies designed to ensure that all subgrants under the jurisdiction of MDHS are administered in compliance with Federal requirements and with the terms of the subgrant agreements. Monitoring subgrants, for compliance with the applicable Federal regulations, State laws, Agency policies, and the terms of the subgrant agreements, is the responsibility of the MDHS Division of Program Integrity.

Subgrant monitoring procedures may include several of the various options available. These options include: reviewing reports submitted by the subgrantee; reviewing documentation supporting expenses reported under MDHS subgrants; reviewing the subgrantee's single audit or program-specific audit results and evaluating audit findings and the subgrantee's corrective action plan; performing on-site reviews of fiscal and programmatic records and observing subgrantee operations; and/or, arranging for limited scope audits of specific compliance areas.

Planning Considerations

When determining the extent of monitoring procedures to perform, MDHS will consider factors such as the amount of the subgrant, the percentage of a Federal program's total funds awarded to subgrantees, and the complexity of the compliance requirements. To determine the appropriateness of monitoring procedures, MDHS will consider the cost-effectiveness of monitoring procedures compared to the relative size and complexity of the Federal awards administered by the subgrantee. The following factors will also be considered when determining the monitoring procedures to be performed to ensure compliance with the Federal regulations, State laws, Agency policies and procedures, and the terms of the subgrant agreement:

1. The amount of the subgrant in relation to the total amount of the program;
2. Prior experience of the subgrantee operating subgrants supported by Federal funds;
3. Results of the MDHS follow-up on prior year single audit findings;

4. Results of the review of documents submitted by the subgrantee;
5. Results of the desk review of supporting documentation for expenditures;
6. Results of previous on-site fiscal and programmatic reviews; and/or,
7. Specific requests by the MDHS Executive Director or Funding Division Director.

Monitoring Procedures

1. Review of Reports Submitted by Subgrantees

Subgrants may be monitored by reviewing reports submitted by the subgrantee for compliance with the subgrant agreement and program instructions. For example, the monthly reporting worksheets may be reviewed for accuracy and completeness or the quarterly programmatic report may be reviewed to ensure that each element of the Scope of Services is being met.

2. Review of Supporting Documentation for Expenditures

Subgrants may be monitored by performing a desk review of supporting documentation for expenditures reported under the subgrant. This review consists of contacting the subgrantee and requesting documents to support certain amounts included on the subgrantee's reporting worksheets. These documents will be examined by the monitors to determine compliance with the subgrant agreement and with State and Federal regulations. The results of the desk review will be communicated in a written report to the subgrantee and to the MDHS Funding Division.

Desk reviews may be conducted at any time by staff of the MDHS, Division of Program Integrity. The desk review procedure may be used in lieu of or in conjunction with an on-site fiscal review or as a follow-up to an on-site fiscal review to ensure that corrective actions have been implemented.

Fiscal monitoring through a desk review will include, at a minimum, a review of all documents to support all expenses reported for one month of the subgrant period. Documents shall be reviewed to support costs reported on the reporting worksheet submitted for the month in which the highest dollar amount of expenses was reported as of the date that the schedule letter was prepared to begin the desk review and request support documents.

When fiscal monitoring is initiated through a desk review and sufficient documents are not provided by the subgrantee/contractor to support costs reported on the reporting worksheet, the desk review shall cease and fiscal monitoring shall be completed through an on-site review.

Fiscal monitoring shall not be performed through a desk review on the first subgrant awarded to a subgrantee. In addition, monitoring through a desk review shall be alternated with on-site reviews so that on-site fiscal monitoring is performed at least every other year.

Monitoring for programmatic compliance cannot be performed through a desk review.

3. Review of the Subgrantee's Single Audit Report for Compliance, Evaluation of Audit Findings, and Follow-up on Corrective Actions

Subgrantees that expend \$500,000.00 or more of Federal financial assistance during the subgrantee's fiscal year shall have an audit performed by an independent Certified Public Accountant in accordance with the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133. As a part of MDHS' monitoring of each of its subgrants, these independent auditor's reports shall be obtained from the subgrantees and reviewed for compliance with Federal regulations.

Any audit findings identified in the independent auditor's reports, as well as the subgrantees proposed corrective action plans, shall be evaluated by the MDHS Funding Divisions. If the subgrantee's corrective action plan is acceptable, a management decision will be issued by the MDHS Funding Division to resolve the audit findings. The MDHS Division of Program Integrity will follow-up on the subgrantee's corrective action plan during the next on-site fiscal review that is conducted.

4. On-Site Reviews for Program Compliance

On-site reviews for program compliance are required to be conducted at least once during the subgrant period for every MDHS subgrant. On-site reviews for program compliance may be performed on any subgrant at any time and may be repeated as often as deemed necessary by MDHS. These reviews for program compliance will be conducted by the MDHS Division of Program Integrity.

The on-site programmatic reviews are formal in nature and are normally preceded by written notification to the subgrantee and to the appropriate MDHS Funding Division Directors. However, unannounced on-site programmatic reviews may also be conducted. On-site entrance and exit conferences will be conducted with subgrantee officials and a written report will be issued communicating the results of the review to the subgrantee and to the MDHS Funding Divisions. The Agency shall follow-up on the subgrantee's corrective action plan for any programmatic monitoring findings.

5. On-Site Reviews for Fiscal Compliance

On-site reviews for fiscal compliance will be conducted by the Division of Program Integrity, as provided under this section. These visits may also be conducted at the request of the MDHS Executive Director or the MDHS Funding Division Director.

These reviews are formal in nature and are normally preceded by written notification to the subgrantee. The appropriate Funding Division Directors shall also receive written notification of on-site fiscal reviews. However, unannounced on-site fiscal reviews may also be conducted. On-site entrance conferences will be conducted with subgrantee officials. Exit conferences will be

conducted and a written report will be issued communicating the results of the review to the subgrantee and to the MDHS Funding Divisions. MDHS shall follow-up on the subgrantee's corrective action plan for any fiscal monitoring findings.

6. Limited Scope Audits of Specific Compliance Areas

The Agency may engage an independent Certified Public Accountant to perform a Limited Scope Audit of certain MDHS subgrants. The need for this type of review shall be determined on an individual basis and shall be documented by the Division of Program Integrity. The results of this review shall be communicated to the subgrantee and to the MDHS Funding Divisions in a written report.

Corrective Action Process

The Initial Report of Findings and Recommendations that is forwarded to the subgrantee and to the MDHS funding division shall require a written response from the subgrantee within fifteen (15) working days. Upon receipt of the response from the subgrantee, the Director of the Office of Monitoring and other appropriate staff shall assess each response for adequacy. If all responses are adequate, a letter will be issued to the subgrantee clearing all findings. If any responses do not adequately address the findings, the subgrantee will be notified in writing by the issuance of a Status Report acceptable to MDHS requiring a second response from the subgrantee within ten (10) working days.

If the subgrantee fails to satisfactorily resolve all of the monitoring findings, the Office of Monitoring will issue a Final Notice Letter to the subgrantee demanding that the subgrantee refund the amount of questioned costs and advising the subgrantee of the procedures to follow if they wish to request an administrative hearing with the MDHS Executive Director.

If the subgrantee does not respond to the Final Notice Letter, the subgrantee will be referred to the State of Mississippi Office of the Attorney General to recover the unresolved questioned costs, and the Agency may begin procedures for debarment and suspension against the subgrantee organization and the subgrantee authorized official.

Discovery of Possible Fraud, Mismanagement, or Program Abuse

In the event indications of possible fraud, mismanagement, or program abuse are discovered during the course of monitoring subgrants, the Director of the Office of Monitoring shall notify the Director of the Division of Program Integrity, who shall notify the MDHS Executive Director. The MDHS Executive Director and appropriate personnel will decide the course of action to be taken, including the degree of disclosure to subgrantee personnel and to the MDHS Funding Divisions. The format for reporting such incidents will be determined by the Director of the Office of Monitoring and/or the Director of the Division of Program Integrity, after consultation with the MDHS Executive Director.

DCS (T&TA)**Statutory Reference 2605(b)(10)**

DCS staff uses several tools and checklists to conduct an overall comprehensive review of the agencies' operations. Throughout both the programmatic and fiscal review process there should be ongoing, open communication with the staff to facilitate clarification of facts and prevent misunderstandings, provide the reviewer with a full understanding of the agencies' operations, and provide the agency with a full understanding of the review process.

Preliminary areas of noncompliance should be summarized and discussed with the Executive Director and/or designated staff during the exit conference. Copies of specific documents, supporting schedules, and reports obtained during the site visit to facilitate preparation of the report should be discussed during the exit conference. The agency is given the opportunity to provide comments and present additional information or explanation regarding a specific finding before it is included in the report.

The report should include specific timelines for any required corrective action associated with each finding. Copies of the report should be mailed to agency's Board and the agency's Executive Director. A copy should also be provided to the DCS Program Director and Compliance Officer.

The agency is required to respond in writing to each of the findings and observations mentioned in the report, including a detailed plan for taking corrective actions and implementing required changes. The initial response is due within 30 days from the date of the report. The agency's plan for resolution and corrective action will be reviewed by Compliance Team to ensure that all findings have been adequately addressed.

In the event an agency is unable or unwilling to correct a specified area of noncompliance within the prescribed timeline, DCS will report the deficiency to MDHS-Division of Program Integrity. If MDHS determines that the agency remains noncompliance in a specified area, DCS may contact DHHS to initiate proceedings to terminate the organization's designation as a Community Action Agency.

ATTACHMENT-FAIR HEARING PROCESS**Statutory reference 2605(b) (13)****Client Level****Client Rights**

A client must be apprised of his/her right to a fair hearing at the time the application is made. Each entity has established a set of procedures which explicitly detail the proper local channels, with the appropriate time frames a client should follow, in his/her request for a fair hearing.

All appeals must be routed through the Division of Community Services.

Step I

After having exhausted all channels of resolution at the local level, the complainant has five (5) working days to submit an appeal to:

Director
Division of Community Services
Mississippi Department of Human Services
Post Office Box 352
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

This appeal must include, but not limited to, the following:

1. Name and address of complainant.
2. Name of entity in dispute.
3. Date of denial notification.
4. Reason for denial.
5. Justification noting why service(s) should be rendered.
6. Two (2) signed and dated copies of the appeal (an original and one copy).

The Director of the Division of Community Services shall have a period of ten (10) working days to research the matter, conduct a hearing, and render a written decision. If this decision is not satisfactory, the complainant may proceed with Step II.

Step II

The complainant shall have five (5) working days after receiving a decision in Step I to file an appeal with:

Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Human Services
Post Office Box 352
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

The procedures for filing such a complaint are the same as those listed in numbers 1-6 of Step I. The Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Human Services shall have fifteen (15) working days to research the matter, conduct a hearing, and render a decision. Should the complainant deem this decision to be unsatisfactory, he/she may proceed to Step III.

Step III

If the complainant is dissatisfied with the decision rendered by the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Human Services, the complainant shall have five (5) working days after receiving a written decision in Step II to file a complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The procedures for filing such a complaint are the same as those listed in Steps I and II. The complaint shall be filed with:

Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Community Services
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W., 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20447

At this point the time frame for a response shall be determined solely by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Secretary's decision is final and binding.

Entity Level

TERMINATION AND/OR SUSPENSION OF COMMUNITY ACTION ENTITIES

The State shall notify, in writing, any community action entity which received funding under the Community Services Block Grant that a hearing on the proposed termination or suspension of such a community action entity, as result of alleged subgrant violation(s), State and/or Federal non-compliance, will be held. The procedures for such hearing are stated below.

A. Hearing notices will be directed from:

Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Human Services
Post Office Box 352
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

B. The notice will include, but not limited to, the following:

1. Name and address of the community action entity whose grant is to be terminated or suspended.

2. Date and location of hearing.
 3. Reason(s) for hearing, that is, the alleged violations which are to result in termination or suspension.
- C. The Executive Director shall have a period of ten (10) working days after the hearing to render a decision, notify the entity, and forwarded all evidence and its conclusion to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for final review and determination.

NOTE: This procedure does not preclude or otherwise limit an eligible entity from seeking review and/or other remedy through the courts.

ATTACHMENT- WASTE, FRAUD & ABUSE

The Division of Community Services has a zero tolerance for the commission or concealment of acts of waste, fraud and abuse. Allegations of such acts will be investigated and pursued to their logical conclusion, including legal action where warranted.

Whistleblower Protection

According to Mississippi Code Section 25-9-171, et seq. an employer can not dismiss or otherwise adversely affect the compensation or employment status of an employee who testifies or provides information to an investigative body.

Definitions of Waste, Fraud and Abuse

According to the U.S. Office of Inspector General

Waste- involves the taxpayers not receiving reasonable value for money in connection with any government funded activities due to an inappropriate act or omission by players with control over or access to government resources.

Fraud- a type of illegal act involving the obtaining of something of value through willful misrepresentation. A false representation of a material fact, whether by words or by conduct, by false or misleading allegations, or by concealment of that which should have been disclosed, which deceives another so that he acts, or fails to act to his detriment.

Abuse- involves behavior that is deficient or improper when compared with behavior that a prudent person would consider reasonable and necessary business practice given the facts and circumstances. Abuse also includes misuse of authority or position for personal financial interests or those of an immediate or close family member or business associate.

ResponsibilitiesEmployee (Grantee Level)

Any employee who has knowledge of waste, fraud or abuse, or has a good reason to suspect that such conduct has occurred, shall adhere to the procedure in this policy. When suspected fraudulent activity, waste, or abuse is observed by, or made known to, an employee, the employee shall immediately report the activity to his/her direct supervisor. If the employee believes that the supervisor is involved with the activity, he/she shall immediately report the activity to the Deputy Director. If the employee believes that the Deputy Director may be involved with the activity, the employee shall report the activity to the Division Director.

Employee (Subgrantee Level)

Any employee who has knowledge of waste, fraud or abuse, or has a good reason to suspect that such conduct has occurred, shall adhere to the procedure in this policy. When suspected fraudulent activity, waste, or abuse is observed by, or made known to, an employee, the employee shall immediately report the activity to his/her direct supervisor. If the employee believes that the supervisor is involved with the activity, he/she shall immediately report the activity to the

Executive Director. If the employee believes that the Executive Director may be involved with the activity, the employee shall report the activity to the Board of Directors.

Client

The Division of Community Services cannot compel citizens and customers to report suspected instances of waste, fraud and abuse. However, the Division of Community Services strongly encourages them to do so. Once management at the agency level or at the state level has been informed of suspected waste, fraud or abuse, management shall provide the client with the established procedures for filing a report.

Vendor

Any citizens, customer, vendor or agency that has knowledge of waste, fraud or abuse, or has a good reason to suspect that such conduct has occurred should report the occurrence to the Division of Community Services where an investigation will be launched.

Types of Waste, Fraud and Abuse

Employee: Omitting client information, ghost clients, charging application fees, former employee having access to software, receiving kickback from vendor, etc.

Client: Hiding income, household size incorrect, forging documents needed to complete intake, etc.

Vendor/Contractor: Charging a higher amount than the lowest allowable, doctoring delivery tickets, providing financial incentive to staff to overlook unallowable charges, double charges, incorrect pricing, etc.

Ways to Report Waste, Fraud and Abuse

- Fill out a form located on <https://virtualroma.mdhs.ms.gov/>
- Email: virtualroma@mdh.ms.gov
- Call: 1-800-421-0762
- Fax: 601-359-4370
- Write:
Division of Community Services
Attention: Director
750 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39202

What Information to Submit

Provide as much detail as possible. You do not need to provide your name.

What Happens Next:

Information will be reviewed by the Division Director and an investigation will be conducted.

Employee: Persons who have been found guilty of waste, fraud and abuse are subject to prosecution and/or recoupment of any benefits provided, following due process as defined in agency regulations and may will be terminated.

Client: If it is the client's first offense he/she will be ineligible for services for an entire year from the date of the decision. If it is the client's second offense, he/she will be disqualified permanently from the program and is subject to prosecution and/or recoupment of any benefits provided, following due process as defined in agency regulations.

Vendor/Contractors- Vendors/Contractors suspected of fraud and/or misrepresentation, may be suspended from participation and is subject to prosecution and/or recoupment of any benefits provided, following due process as defined in agency regulations.

ATTACHMENT-LEGAL NOTICE & PUBLIC COMMENTS**Statutory reference 2605 (b) (12)**

LEGAL GRANTS
(Block Grants)
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Community Services
Legislative Public Hearing

The Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Community Services will be conducting the Legislative Public Hearing on the Community Services Block Grant and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Programs under Title 26 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, as amended. The hearing for the 2016 programs is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in the new Training Room at the Mississippi Department of Human Services, 750 North State Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

The Community Services Block Grant provides funds for a range of activities to ameliorate the causes and effects of poverty. For Fiscal Year 2016, at least 90 percent of the funds allocated to the State through these grants will be contracted to non-profit community action agencies, migrant seasonal farm worker organizations or community-based organizations that meet the eligibility requirements as described in Section 675 of the Community Services Block Grant Act, as amended. The eligibility requirements for the program are outlined in the application process.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program assists eligible households to pay the costs of home energy bills and other energy-related services, for example, wood, kerosene, electricity, gas, heaters, blankets, fans and air conditioners. For Fiscal Year 2016, at least 90 percent of the funds allocated to the State through these grants will be contracted to private, nonprofit, and public agencies designated in accordance with Public Law 97-35, as amended. The eligibility requirements for the program are outlined in the application process.

Copies of the state plans are available for review at the Mississippi Department of Human Services by calling 601-359-4768 or 1-800-421-0762.

Inquiries, comments or suggestions regarding the block grant plans and/or eligibility requirements must be received on or before June 16, 2015 by the Division of Community Services, P. O. Box 352, Jackson, Mississippi 39205. Public comments will be reviewed before finalizing the 2016 State Plans for these programs.

**DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Denise Williams
Department of Purchasing

FROM: Nicole McBeath
Division of Community Services

DATE: April 24, 2015

SUBJECT: Publication of Legal Notice

The Division of Community Services requests that a legal notice concerning the Legislative Public Hearing on the Community Services Block Grant and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Programs be published in the classified section of the twelve newspapers listed (See attachment). The information should be advertised on May 26, 2015 and June 2, 2015 and should appear one time in each newspaper. Please send us the copies of the newspaper advertisements from **three** different publishers as soon as they are announced.

Should you have any questions, please contact Nicole McBeath at 9-4765.

TMR:nm

Attachments

Mississippi Department of Human Services
Division of Community Services

NEWSPAPERS

1. **The Jackson Advocate**
115 East Hamilton
Jackson, MS 39202
2. **The Clarion Ledger**
Post Office Box 40
Jackson, MS 39205-0040
3. **The Natchez Democrat**
Post Office Box 1447
Natchez, MS 39121-39221
4. **The Vicksburg Evening**
Post Office Box 951
Vicksburg, MS 39180
5. **The Commercial Dispatch**
Post Office Box 511
Columbus, MS 39703
6. **The Northeast MS Daily Journal**
Post Office Box 909
Tupelo, MS 38801
7. **The Delta Democrat Times**
Post Office Box 1618
Greenville, MS 38701
8. **The Hattiesburg American**
Post Office Box 1111
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
9. **The Daily Corinthian**
Post Office Box 119
Corinth, MS 38834
10. **The Clarksdale Press Registrar**
Post Office Box 1119
Clarksdale, MS 38614
11. **The Gulf Publishing Company**
Post Office Box 4567
Biloxi, MS 39535
12. **The Meridian Star**
Post Office Box 1591
Meridian, MS 39301

ATTACHMENT-LEGAL NOTICE & PUBLIC COMMENTS
COMMENTS FROM THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE PUBLIC HEARING

TBD

**ATTACHMENT-CERTIFICATION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO
SMOKE**

Public law 103-227, also known as the Pro-Children Act of 1994 (act), requires that smoking not be permitted in any portion of any indoor facility owned or leased or contracted for by an entity and used routinely or regularly for the provision of health, day care, early childhood development services, education or library services to children under the age of 18, if the services are funded by Federal programs either directly or through State or local governments, by Federal grants, contract loan, or loan guarantee. The law also applies to children's services that are provided in indoor facilities that are constructed operated, or maintained with such Federal funds, The law does not apply to children's services provided in private residences, Portions of facilities used for inpatient drug or alcohol treatment; service providers whose sole source of applicable Federal funds is Medicare or Medicaid; or facilities where WIC coupons are redeemed. Failure to comply with the provisions of the law may result in the imposition of a civil monetary penalty of up to \$1,000 for each violation and. / or the imposition an administrative compliance order on the responsible entity.

By signing this certification, the offer or/contractor (for acquisitions) or applicant/grantee (for grants) certifies that the submitting organization will comply with the requirements of the Act and will not allow smoking within any portion of any indoor facility used for the provision of services for children as defined by the Act.

The submitting organization agrees that it will require that the language of this certification be included in any subawards which contain provisions for children's services and that all subrecipients shall certify accordingly.

Richard A. Berry, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Human Services

Date

ATTACHMENT-CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- (1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- (2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, ``Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.
- (3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, ``Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Richard A. Berry, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Human Services

Date

ATTACHMENT-CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters--Primary Covered Transactions

Instructions for Certification

1. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective primary participant is providing the certification set out below.
2. The inability of a person to provide the certification required below will not necessarily result in denial of participation in this covered transaction. The prospective participant shall submit an explanation of why it cannot provide the certification set out below. The certification or explanation will be considered in connection with the department or agency's determination whether to enter into this transaction. However, failure of the prospective primary participant to furnish a certification or an explanation shall disqualify such person from participation in this transaction.
3. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when the department or agency determined to enter into this transaction. If it is later determined that the prospective primary participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency may terminate this transaction for cause or default.
4. The prospective primary participant shall provide immediate written notice to the department or agency to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective primary participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
5. The terms covered transaction, debarred, suspended, ineligible, lower tier covered transaction, participant, person, primary covered transaction, principal, proposal, and voluntarily excluded, as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the department or agency to which this proposal is being submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.
6. The prospective primary participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency entering into this transaction.
7. The prospective primary participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include the clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transaction," provided by the department or agency

entering into this covered transaction, without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.

8. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non-procurement Programs.
9. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
10. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 6 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency may terminate this transaction for cause or default.

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters--Primary Covered Transactions

- (1) The prospective primary participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:
 - (a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded by any Federal department or agency;
 - (b) Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - (c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1)(b) of this certification; and

- (d) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.
- (2) Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion--Lower Tier Covered Transactions

Instructions for Certification

1. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out below.
2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.
3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or had become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
4. The terms covered transaction, debarred, suspended, ineligible, lower tier covered transaction, participant, person, primary covered transaction, principal, proposal, and voluntarily excluded, as used in this clause, have the meaning set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the person to which this proposal is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.
5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, [[Page 33043]] should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.
6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include this clause titled ``Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transaction," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions,

unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non-procurement Programs.

8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility an Voluntary Exclusion--Lower Tier Covered Transactions

- (1)The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
- (2)Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Richard A. Berry, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Human Services

Date

**ATTACHMENT-CERTIFICATION REGARDING DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE
REQUIREMENTS**

This certification is required by the regulations implementing the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988: 45 CFR Part 76, Subpart, F. Sections 76.630(c) and (d)(2) and 76.645(a)(1) and (b) provide that a Federal agency may designate a central receipt point for STATE-WIDE AND STATE AGENCY-WIDE certifications, and for notification of criminal drug convictions. For the Department of Health and Human Services, the central point is: Division of Grants Management and Oversight, Office of Management and Acquisition, Department of Health and Human Services, Room 517-D, 200 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20201.

Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (Instructions for Certification)

1. By signing and/or submitting this application or grant agreement, the grantee is providing the certification set out below.
2. The certification set out below is a material representation of fact upon which reliance is placed when the agency awards the grant. If it is later determined that the grantee knowingly rendered a false certification, or otherwise violates the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act, the agency, in addition to any other remedies available to the Federal Government, may take action authorized under the Drug-Free Workplace Act.
3. For grantees other than individuals, Alternate I applies.
4. For grantees who are individuals, Alternate II applies.
5. Workplaces under grants, for grantees other than individuals, need not be identified on the certification. If known, they may be identified in the grant application. If the grantee does not identify the workplaces at the time of application, or upon award, if there is no application, the grantee must keep the identity of the workplace(s) on file in its office and make the information available for Federal inspection. Failure to identify all known workplaces constitutes a violation of the grantee's drug-free workplace requirements.
6. Workplace identifications must include the actual address of buildings (or parts of buildings) or other sites where work under the grant takes place. Categorical descriptions may be used (e.g., all vehicles of a mass transit authority or State highway department while in operation, State employees in each local unemployment office, performers in concert halls or radio studios).
7. If the workplace identified to the agency changes during the performance of the grant, the grantee shall inform the agency of the change(s), if it previously identified the workplaces in question (see paragraph five).

8. Definitions of terms in the Non-procurement Suspension and Debarment common rule and Drug-Free Workplace common rule apply to this certification. Grantees' attention is called, in particular, to the following definitions from these rules:

Controlled substance means a controlled substance in Schedules I through V of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812) and as further defined by regulation (21 CFR 1308.11 through 1308.15);

Conviction means a finding of guilt (including a plea of nolo contendere) or imposition of sentence, or both, by any judicial body charged with the responsibility to determine violations of the Federal or State criminal drug statutes;

Criminal drug statute means a Federal or non-Federal criminal statute involving the manufacture, distribution, dispensing, use, or possession of any controlled substance;

Employee means the employee of a grantee directly engaged in the performance of work under a grant, including: (i) All direct charge employees; (ii) All indirect charge employees unless their impact or involvement is insignificant to the performance of the grant; and, (iii) Temporary personnel and consultants who are directly engaged in the performance of work under the grant and who are on the grantee's payroll. This definition does not include workers not on the payroll of the grantee (e.g., volunteers, even if used to meet a matching requirement; consultants or independent contractors not on the grantee's payroll; or employees of subrecipients or subcontractors in covered workplaces).

Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements Alternate I. (Grantees Other Than Individuals)

The grantee certifies that it will or will continue to provide a drug-free workplace by:

- (a) Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the grantee's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of such prohibition;
- (b) Establishing an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about –
 - (1) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
 - (2) The grantee's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
 - (3) Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
 - (4) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace;

- (c) Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the grant be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph (a);
 - (d) Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph (a) that, as a condition of employment under the grant, the employee will –
 - (1) Abide by the terms of the statement; and
 - (2) Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction;
 - (e) Notifying the agency in writing, within ten calendar days after receiving notice under paragraph (d)(2) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such conviction. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice, including position title, to every grant officer or other designee on whose grant activity the convicted employee was working, unless the Federal agency has designated a central point for the receipt of such notices. Notice shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant;
 - (f) Taking one of the following actions, within 30 calendar days of receiving notice under paragraph (d)(2), with respect to any employee who is so convicted –
 - (1) Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or
 - (2) Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a Federal, State, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;
 - (g) Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f).
- (B) The grantee may insert in the space provided below the site(s) for the performance of work done in connection with the specific grant:

Place of Performance (Street address, city, county, state, zip code)

750 North State Street

Jackson, MS 39202 (Hinds County)

Check if there are workplaces on file that are not identified here.

Alternate II. (Grantees Who Are Individuals)

(a) The grantee certifies that, as a condition of the grant, he or she will not engage in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance in conducting any activity with the grant;

(b) If convicted of a criminal drug offense resulting from a violation occurring during the conduct of any grant activity, he or she will report the conviction, in writing, within 10 calendar days of the conviction, to every grant officer or other designee, unless the Federal agency designates a central point for the receipt of such notices. When notice is made to such a central point, it shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant.

[55 FR 21690, 21702, May 25, 1990]

Richard A. Berry, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Human Services

Date

ATTACHMENT-ASSURANCES

The State of Mississippi agrees to:
(Grantee name)

1. Use of Funds

a. Use the funds available under this title to—

- i. conduct outreach activities and provide assistance to low income households in meeting their home energy costs, particularly those with the lowest incomes that pay a high proportion of household income for home energy, consistent with paragraph (5);
- ii. intervene in energy crisis situations;
- iii. provide low-cost residential weatherization and other cost-effective energy-related home repair; and
- iv. plan, develop, and administer the State's program under this title including leveraging programs, and the State agrees not to use such funds for any purposes other than those specified in this title;

2. Eligibility

a. Make payments under this title only with respect to—

- i. households in which 1 or more individuals are receiving—
 - assistance under the State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act;
 - supplemental security income payments under title XVI of the Social Security Act;
 - food stamps under the Food Stamp Act of 1977; or
 - payments under section 415, 521, 541, or 542 of title 38, United States Code, or under section 306 of the Veterans' and Survivors' Pension Improvement Act of 1978; or
- ii. households with incomes which do not exceed the greater of—
 - an amount equal to 150 percent of the poverty level for such State; or

- an amount equal to 60 percent of the State median income; except that a State may not exclude a household from eligibility in a fiscal year solely on the basis of household income if such income is less than 110 percent of the poverty level for such State, but the State may give priority to those households with the highest home energy costs or needs in relation to household income;

3. Outreach

Conduct outreach activities designed to assure that eligible households, especially households with elderly individuals or disabled individuals, or both, and households with high home energy burdens, are made aware of the assistance available under this title, and any similar energy-related assistance available under subtitle B of title VI (relating to community services block grant program) or under any other provision of law which carries out programs which were administered under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 before the date of the enactment of this Act;

4. Coordination

Coordinate its activities under this title with similar and related programs administered by the Federal Government and such State, particularly low-income energy-related programs under subtitle B of title VI (relating to community services block grant program), under the supplemental security income program, under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act, under title XX of the Social Security Act, under the low-income weatherization assistance program under title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act, or under any other provision of law which carries out programs which were administered under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 before the date of the enactment of this Act;

5. Varying Benefits

Provide, in a timely manner, that the highest level of assistance will be furnished to those households which have the lowest incomes and the highest energy costs or needs in relation to income, taking into account family size, except that the State may not differentiate in implementing this section between the households described in clauses (2)(A) and (2)(B) of this subsection;

6. Local Agencies

- a. to the extent it is necessary to designate local administrative agencies in order to carry out the purposes of this title, to give special consideration, in the designation of such agencies, to any local public or private nonprofit agency which was receiving Federal funds under any low-income energy assistance program or weatherization program under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 or any other provision of law on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, except that—

- i. the State shall, before giving such special consideration, determine that the agency involved meets program and fiscal requirements established by the State; and
 - ii. if there is no such agency because of any change in the assistance furnished to programs for economically disadvantaged persons, then the State shall give special consideration in the designation of local administrative agencies to any successor agency which is operated in substantially the same manner as the predecessor agency which did receive funds for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the determination is made;
7. Vendor Payments
 - a. if the State chooses to pay home energy suppliers directly, establish procedures to—
 - i. notify each participating household of the amount of assistance paid on its behalf;
 - ii. assure that the home energy supplier will charge the eligible household, in the normal billing process, the difference between the actual cost of the home energy and the amount of the payment made by the State under this title;
 - iii. assure that the home energy supplier will provide assurances that any agreement entered into with a home energy supplier under this paragraph will contain provisions to assure that no household receiving assistance under this title will be treated adversely because of such assistance under applicable provisions of State law or public regulatory requirements; and
 - iv. ensure that the provision of vendored payments remains at the option of the State in consultation with local grantees and may be contingent on unregulated vendors taking appropriate measures to alleviate the energy burdens of eligible households, including providing for agreements between suppliers and individuals eligible for benefits under this Act that seek to reduce home energy costs, minimize the risks of home energy crisis, and encourage regular payments by individuals receiving financial assistance for home energy costs;
8. Renters
 - a. provide assurances that
 - i. the State will not exclude households described in clause (2)(B) of this subsection from receiving home energy assistance benefits under clause (2), and
 - ii. the State will treat owners and renters equitably under the program assisted under this title;

9. Admin Cost

a. provide that—

- i. the State may use for planning and administering the use of funds under this title an amount not to exceed 10 percent of the funds payable to such State under this title for a fiscal year; and
- ii. the State will pay from non-Federal sources the remaining costs of planning and administering the program assisted under this title and will not use Federal funds for such remaining cost (except for the costs of the activities described in paragraph (16));

10. Monitoring, Fiscal Control, Accounting, Single Audit Act

Provide that such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures will be established as may be necessary to assure the proper disbursement of and accounting for Federal funds paid to the State under this title, including procedures for monitoring the assistance provided under this title, and provide that the State will comply with the provisions of chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as the "Single Audit Act");

11. Cooperate with Federal Investigations

Permit and cooperate with Federal investigations undertaken in accordance with section 2608;

12. Public Participation

Provide for timely and meaningful public participation in the development of the plan described in subsection (c);

13. Fair Administrative Hearing

Provide an opportunity for a fair administrative hearing to individuals whose claims for assistance under the plan described in subsection (c) are denied or are not acted upon with reasonable promptness;

14. Cooperate with Data Collection and Reporting

Cooperate with the Secretary with respect to data collecting and reporting under section 2610;

15. Preference in Awarding Grants for Outreach and Intake

Beginning in fiscal year 1992, provide, in addition to such services as may be offered by State Departments of Public Welfare at the local level, outreach and intake functions for crisis situations and heating and cooling assistance that is administered by additional State

and local governmental entities or community-based organizations (such as community action agencies, area agencies on aging, and not-for-profit neighborhood-based organizations), and in States where such organizations do not administer intake functions as of September 30, 1991, preference in awarding grants or contracts for intake services shall be provided to those agencies that administer the low-income weatherization or energy crisis intervention programs; and

16. Efforts to Reduce Home Energy Needs

Use up to 5 percent of such funds, at its option, to provide services that encourage and enable households to reduce their home energy needs and thereby the need for energy assistance, including needs assessments, counseling, and assistance with energy vendors, and report to the Secretary concerning the impact of such activities on the number of households served, the level of direct benefits provided to those households, and the number of households that remain unserved.

Certification to the Assurances: As Chief Executive Officer, I agree to comply with the sixteen assurances contained in Title XXVI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, as amended. * By signing these assurances, I also agree to abide by the standard assurances on lobbying, debarment, suspension, and a drug-free workplace.

Signature of the Tribal or Board Chairperson or Chief Executive Officer of the State or Territory.**

Richard A. Berry, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Human Services

Date

*Indian tribes/tribal organizations and territories with annual regular LIHEAP allotments of \$200,000 or less, are not subject to assurance 15, and thus must only certify to 15 assurances.

** If a person other than the Chief Executive Officer of the State or territory, or Tribal Chairperson or Board Chairperson of a tribal organization, is signing the certification to the assurances, a letter must be submitted delegating such authority. (PLEASE ATTACH DELEGATION AUTHORITY.) The delegation must include authority to sign the assurances, not just to administer the program.

*** HHS needs the EIN (Entity Identification Number) of the State, territory or Tribal agency that is to receive the grant funds before it can issue the grant.

In the above assurances which are quoted from the law, "State" means the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Indian Tribe or Tribal Organization, or a Territory; "title" of the Act refers to Title XXVI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (OBRA), as amended, the "Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act"; "section" means Section 2605 of OBRA; and, "subsection" refers to Section 2605(b) of OBRA.

ATTACHMENT-TENTATIVE FFY 2016 ALLOCATIONS

(These levels are dependent on the Federal LIHEAP award at the FFY 2015 level. Adjustments will be made once the final FFY 2016 awards are known.)

Eligible Entities	Allocation
AJFC CAA	\$ 1,154,119
Bolivar Co CAA	\$472,139
Central Mississippi	\$1,439,501
Coahoma Opportunities	\$335,744
Gulf Coast CAA	\$1,353,466
Hinds County HRA	\$1,871,771
Jackson Co CAC	\$671,487
LIFT	\$1,817,212
Madison Co. CSA	\$425,975
Mid-State Opportunities	\$1,334,581
Multi County CSA	\$1,773,146
Northeast MS	\$809,980
PRVO	\$2,467,715
Prairie Opportunity	\$1,647,242
Rankin Co. HRA	\$455,352
South Central CAA	\$222,430
Southwest MS	\$707,160
Sunflower-Humphreys Co	\$453,253
United CAA	\$249,709
WWISCAA	\$1,321,991
Total	\$20,983,97

2016 LIHEAP Tentative Allocations- June 2015							
			Total Allocation	Admin.	Program Support	Program Assistance	ECIP
AJFC							
	Adams	1.44%	302,169	8,167	14,700	265,337	13,965
	Claiborne	0.62%	130,101	3,516	6,329	114,242	6,013
	Copiah	1.10%	230,824	6,238	11,229	202,688	10,668
	Franklin	0.32%	67,149	1,815	3,267	58,964	3,103
	Jefferson	0.45%	94,428	2,552	4,594	82,918	4,364
	Lawrence	0.43%	90,231	2,439	4,390	79,233	4,170
	Lincoln	1.14%	239,217	6,465	11,638	210,059	11,056
	Total	5.50%	1,154,119	31,192	56,147	1,013,441	53,339
BOLIVAR							
	Bolivar	2.25%	472,139	12,761	22,969	414,590	21,821
CENTRAL MS							
	Attala	0.75%	157,380	4,254	7,656	138,197	7,274
	Carroll	0.38%	79,739	2,155	3,879	70,020	3,685
	Grenada	0.89%	186,757	5,047	9,085	163,993	8,631
	Holmes	1.39%	291,677	7,883	14,190	256,124	13,480
	Leflore	2.33%	488,927	13,214	23,486	429,330	22,596
	Montgomery	0.50%	104,920	2,836	5,104	92,131	4,849
	Yalobusha	0.62%	130,101	3,516	6,329	114,242	6,013
	Total	6.86%	1,439,501	38,905	69,729	1,264,037	66,528
COAHOMA							
	Coahoma	1.60%	335,744	9,074	1,633	294,819	15,517
GULF COAST							
	George	0.44%	92,329	2,495	4,492	81,075	4,267
	Greene	0.34%	71,346	1,928	3,471	62,649	3,297
	Hancock	0.96%	201,446	5,444	9,800	176,892	9,310
	Harrison	4.31%	904,409	24,443	43,998	794,169	41,798
	Stone	0.40%	83,936	2,269	4,083	73,705	3,879
	Total	6.45%	1,353,466	36,579	65,844	1,188,490	62,551

HINDS COUNTY							
	Hinds	8.92%	1,871,771	50,588	91,059	1,643,617	86,506
JACKSON COUNTY							
	Jackson	3.20%	671,487	18,148	32,667	589,638	31,034
LIFT							
	Calhoun	0.51%	107,018	2,892	5,206	93,974	4,946
	Chickasaw	0.77%	161,577	4,367	7,860	141,882	7,467
	Itawamba	0.53%	111,215	3,006	5,410	97,659	5,140
	Lafayette	1.54%	323,153	8,734	15,721	282,763	14,935
	Lee	2.50%	524,599	14,178	25,521	460,655	24,245
	Monroe	1.25%	262,300	7,089	12,761	230,328	12,123
	Pontotoc	0.77%	161,577	4,367	7,860	141,882	7,467
	Union	0.79%	165,773	4,480	8,065	145,567	7,661
	Total	8.66%	1,817,212	49,113	88,404	1,594,710	83,984
MADISON COUNTY CSA							
	Madison	2.03%	425,975	11,513	20,723	374,052	19,687
MID-STATE							
	Desoto	2.30%	482,631	13,044	23,479	423,803	22,305
	Panola	1.65%	346,236	9,358	16,844	304,032	16,002
	Quitman	0.48%	100,723	2,722	4,900	88,446	4,655
	Tallahatchie	0.68%	142,691	3,857	6,942	125,298	6,595
	Tate	0.75%	157,380	4,254	7,656	138,197	7,274
	Tunica	0.50%	104,920	2,836	5,104	92,131	4,849
	Total	6.36%	1,334,581	36,071	64,925	1,171,907	61,680

MULTI-COUNTY							
	Clarke	0.62%	130,101	3,516	6,329	114,242	6,013
	Jasper	0.64%	134,297	3,630	6,533	117,928	6,207
	Kemper	0.37%	77,641	2,098	3,777	68,177	3,588
	Lauderdale	2.68%	562,371	15,199	27,359	493,822	25,991
	Newton	0.64%	134,297	3,630	6,533	117,928	6,207
	Wayne	0.79%	165,773	4,480	8,065	145,567	7,661
	EC- Neshoba	1.05%	220,332	5,955	10,719	193,475	10,183
	EC-Scott	1.17%	245,513	6,635	11,944	215,587	11,347
	EC-Smith	0.49%	102,821	2,779	5,002	90,288	4,752
	Total	8.45%	1,773,146	47,922	86,261	1,557,014	81,949
NORTHEAST MS							
	Alcorn	0.99%	207,741	5,615	10,106	182,419	9,601
	Marshall	1.29%	270,693	7,316	13,169	237,698	12,510
	Prentiss	0.89%	186,757	5,047	9,085	163,993	8,631
	Tishomingo	0.69%	144,789	3,913	7,044	127,141	6,692
	Total	3.86%	809,980	21,891	39,404	711,251	37,434
PRVO							
	Covington	0.86%	180,462	4,877	8,779	158,465	8,340
	Forrest	3.20%	671,487	18,148	32,667	589,638	31,034
	Jeff Davis	0.59%	123,805	3,346	6,023	108,715	5,722
	Jones	2.60%	543,485	14,689	26,440	477,239	25,118
	Lamar	1.07%	224,529	6,068	10,923	197,160	10,377
	Marion	1.06%	222,430	6,012	10,821	195,318	10,280
	Pearl River	1.95%	409,188	11,059	19,906	359,311	18,911
	Perry	0.44%	92,329	2,495	4,492	81,075	4,267
	Total	11.77%	2,467,715	66,694	120,051	2,166,921	114,049

PRAIRIE OPPORTUNITY							
	Choctaw	0.34%	71,346	1,928	3,471	62,649	3,297
	Clay	0.82%	172,069	4,650	8,371	151,095	7,952
	Lowndes	1.99%	417,581	11,286	20,315	366,681	19,299
	Noxubee	0.63%	132,199	3,573	6,431	116,085	6,110
	Oktibbeha	2.27%	476,336	12,874	13,143	418,275	22,014
	Webster	0.41%	86,034	2,325	4,185	75,547	3,976
	Winston	0.68%	142,691	3,857	6,942	125,298	6,595
	EC- Leake	0.71%	148,986	4,027	7,248	130,826	6,886
	Total	7.85%	1,647,242	44,520	70,106	1,446,456	76,129
RANKIN CO. HRA							
	Rankin	2.17%	455,352	12,307	22,152	399,849	21,045
SOUTH CENTRAL CAA							
	Simpson	1.06%	222,430	6,012	10,821	195,318	10,280
SOUTHWEST MS							
	Amite	0.59%	123,805	3,346	6,023	108,715	5,722
	Pike	1.75%	367,220	9,925	17,865	322,459	16,972
	Walthall	0.58%	121,707	3,289	5,921	106,872	5,625
	Wilkinson	0.45%	94,428	2,552	4,594	82,918	4,364
	Total	3.37%	707,160	19,112	34,403	620,964	32,683
SUNFLOWER- HUMPHREYS							
	Humphreys	0.64%	134,297	3,630	6,533	117,928	6,207
	Sunflower	1.52%	318,956	8,620	15,517	280,078	14,741
	Total	2.16%	453,253	12,250	22,050	398,006	20,948

UNITED							
	Benton	0.36%	75,542	2,042	3,675	66,334	3,491
	Tippah	0.83%	174,167	4,707	8,473	280,078	14,741
	Total	1.19%	249,709	6,749	12,148	346,412	18,232
WWISCAA							
	Issaquena	0.14%	29,378	794	1,429	25,797	1,358
	Sharkey	0.29%	60,854	1,645	2,960	53,436	2,812
	Warren	1.52%	318,956	8,620	15,517	280,078	14,741
	Washington	3.03%	635,815	17,184	30,932	558,314	29,385
	Yazoo	1.32%	276,988	7,486	13,475	243,226	12,801
	Total	6.30%	1,321,991	35,729	64,313	1,160,851	61,097

Household Data	HH Size / Annual Income	Energy Types					
	Household Size of 2	Propane	Electric	Natural Gas	Wood /Other Fuel	Maximum Benefit	Total Electric Benefit
Income is between	0 -3933	800	700	600	400	1500	1500
	3934 – 7865	750	650	550	360	1400	1400
	7866 – 11798	700	600	500	320	1300	1300
	11799 – 15730	650	550	450	280	1200	1200
	15731 – 19663	600	500	400	240	1100	1100
	19664 – 23082	550	450	350	200	1000	1000
	Over \$23,082.49 for HH of 2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Household Data	HH Size / Annual Income	Energy Types					
	Household Size of 3	Propane	Electric	Natural Gas	Wood /Other Fuel	Maximum Benefit	Total Electric Benefit
Income is between	0 - 4948	800	700	600	400	1500	1500
	4949 - 9895	750	650	550	360	1400	1400
	9896 - 14843	700	600	500	320	1300	1300
	14844 - 19790	650	550	450	280	1200	1200
	19791 - 24738	600	500	400	240	1100	1100
	24739 - 28513	550	450	350	200	1000	1000
	Over 28,513.49 for HH of 3	0	0	0	0	0	0

Household Data	HH Size / Annual Income	Energy Types					
	Household Size of 4	Propane	Electric	Natural Gas	Wood /Other Fuel	Maximum Benefit	Total Electric Benefit
Income is between	0 - 5963	800	700	600	400	1500	1500
	5964 - 11925	750	650	550	360	1400	1400
	11926 - 17888	700	600	500	320	1300	1300
	17889 - 23850	650	550	450	280	1200	1200
	23851 - 29813	600	500	400	240	1100	1100
	29814 - 33944	550	450	350	200	1000	1000
	Over 33,944.49 for HH of 4	0	0	0	0	0	0

Household Data	HH Size / Annual Income	Energy Types					
	Household Size of 5	Propane	Electric	Natural Gas	Wood /Other Fuel	Maximum Benefit	Total Electric Benefit
Income is between	0 - 6978	800	700	600	400	1500	1500
	6979 - 13955	750	650	550	360	1400	1400
	13956 - 20933	700	600	500	320	1300	1300
	20934 - 27910	650	550	450	280	1200	1200
	27911 - 34888	600	500	400	240	1100	1100
	34889 - 39735	550	450	350	200	1000	1000
	Over 39735.49 for HH of 5	0	0	0	0	0	0

Household Data	HH Size / Annual Income	Energy Types					
	Household Size of 6	Propane	Electric	Natural Gas	Wood /Other Fuel	Maximum Benefit	Total Electric Benefit
Income is between	0 - 7993	800	700	600	400	1500	1500
	7994 - 15985	750	650	550	360	1400	1400
	15986 - 23978	700	600	500	320	1300	1300
	23979 - 31970	650	550	450	280	1200	1200
	31971 - 39963	600	500	400	240	1100	1100
	39664 - 44806	550	450	350	200	1000	1000
	Over 44806.49 for HH of 6	0	0	0	0	0	0

Household Data	HH Size / Annual Income	Energy Types					
	Household Size of 7	Propane	Electric	Natural Gas	Wood /Other Fuel	Maximum Benefit	Total Electric Benefit
Income is between	0 - 9008	800	700	600	400	1500	1500
	9009 - 18015	750	650	550	360	1400	1400
	18016 -27023	700	600	500	320	1300	1300
	27024 - 36030	650	550	450	280	1200	1200
	36031 -45038	600	500	400	240	1100	1100
	45039 - 45824	550	450	350	200	1000	1000
	Over 45,824.49 for HH of 7	0	0	0	0	0	0

Household Data	HH Size / Annual Income	Energy Types					
	Household Size of 8	Propane	Electric	Natural Gas	Wood /Other Fuel	Maximum Benefit	Total Electric Benefit
Income is between	0 - 10023	800	700	600	400	1500	1500
	10024 - 20045	750	650	550	360	1400	1400
	20046 - 30068	700	600	500	320	1300	1300
	30069 - 40090	650	550	450	280	1200	1200
	40091 - 43956	600	500	400	240	1100	1100
	43957 - 46843	550	450	350	200	1000	1000
	Over 46,843.49 for HH of 8	0	0	0	0	0	0

Household Data	HH Size / Annual Income	Energy Types					
	Household Size of 9	Propane	Electric	Natural Gas	Wood /Other Fuel	Maximum Benefit	Total Electric Benefit
Income is between	0 - 11038	800	700	600	400	1500	1500
	11039 - 22075	750	650	550	360	1400	1400
	22076 - 33113	700	600	500	320	1300	1300
	33114 - 44150	650	550	450	280	1200	1200
	44151 - 47861	600	500	400	240	1100	1100
	Over 47861.49 for HH of 9	0	0	0	0	0	0

Household Data	HH Size / Annual Income	Energy Types					
		Propane	Electric	Natural Gas	Wood /Other Fuel	Maximum Benefit	Total Electric Benefit
	Household Size of 10						
Income is between	0 – 12053	800	700	600	400	1500	1500
	12054 - 24105	750	650	550	360	1400	1400
	24106 - 36158	700	600	500	320	1300	1300
	36159 - 48210	650	550	450	280	1200	1200
	48211 - 48879	600	500	400	240	1100	1100
	Over 48879.49 for HH of 10	0	0	0	0	0	0

Household Data	HH Size / Annual Income	Energy Types					
		Propane	Electric	Natural Gas	Wood /Other Fuel	Maximum Benefit	Total Electric Benefit
	Household Size of 11						
Income is between	0 -13068	800	700	600	400	1500	1500
	13069 - 26135	750	650	550	360	1400	1400
	26136 - 39023	700	600	500	320	1300	1300
	39024 - 49898	650	550	450	280	1200	1200
	Over 49898.49 for HH of 11	0	0	0	0	0	0