LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

MODEL PLAN

PUBLIC LAW 97-35, AS AMENDED

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2026

GRANTEE: Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

EIN: 17426105429

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CHECK ONE: TRIBE / TRIBAL ORGANIZATION _____ STATE__X____ INSULAR AREA _____

Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Community Services
Washington, DC 20447

August 1987, revised 05/92, 02/95, 03/96, 12/98, 11/01

OMB Approval No. 0970-0075

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.

Assurances

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs agrees to:

(1) use the funds available under this title to--

(A) 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);

(B) intervene in energy crisis situations;

(C) provide low-cost residential weatherization and other cost-effective energy-related home repair; and

(D) 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) make payments under this title only with respect to--

(A) households in which one or more individuals are receiving--

(i) assistance under the State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act;
(ii) supplemental security income payments under title XVI of the Social Security Act;
(iii) food stamps under the Food Stamp Act of 1977; or
(iv) 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

(B) households with incomes which do not exceed an amount equal to 150 percent of the poverty level for such State; or
(i) an amount equal to 60 percent of the State median income;

except that a State may not exclude a household from eligibility in a Federal 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) 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) 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) 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) 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--

(A) the State shall, before giving such special consideration, determine that the agency involved meets program and fiscal requirements established by the State; and

(B) 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 Federal fiscal year preceding the Federal fiscal year for which the determination is made;

(7) if the State chooses to pay home energy suppliers directly, establish procedures to--

(A) notify each participating household of the amount of assistance paid on its behalf;

(B) 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;

(C) 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

(D) ensure that the provision of vendor 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) provide assurances that--

(A) the State will not exclude households described in clause (2)(B) of this subsection from receiving home energy assistance benefits under clause (2), and

(B) the State will treat owners and renters equitably under the program assisted under this title;

(9) provide that--

(A) 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 Federal fiscal year; and

(B) 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) provide that such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures will be established as may be necessary to assure the proper disbursal 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) permit and cooperate with Federal investigations undertaken in accordance with section 2608;

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

(13) 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; and

(14) cooperate with the Secretary with respect to data collecting and reporting under section 2610.

(15) beginning in Federal 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 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.

* This assurance is applicable only to States, and to territories whose annual regular LIHEAP allotments exceed $200,000. Neither territories with annual allotments of $200,000 or less nor Indian tribes/tribal organizations are subject to Assurance 15.

(16) 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 and suspension, and a drug-free workplace.

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

Signature: _____

Title: Executive Director, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

Date: August 2026 *(The exact date to be notated in USHHS OLDC system at time of submission.)*

The Governor of Texas has delegated the responsibility of signing this document to the Executive Director of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. A copy of the letter is attached.

The Unique Entity ID (SAM) of the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs, which receives the grant funds, appears on the cover of this application.

In the above assurances which are quoted from the law, "State" means the 50 States, the District of Columbia, an 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.

Section 1

NOTE: Capitalized terms are defined in Title 10, Chapters 1, 2, or 6 (as applicable) of the Texas Administrative Code or by federal law.

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

NOTE: Identification of these periods does not limit the payment of assistance on any "seasonal" basis.

☒	Heating assistance	Start date: 10/01/2026	End date: 09/30/2028
☒	Cooling assistance	Start date: 10/01/2026	End date: 09/30/2028
☒	Crisis assistance	Start date: 10/01/2026	End date: 09/30/2028
☒	Weatherization assistance	Start date: 10/01/2026	End date: 09/30/2028

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%**

15% heating assistance

50% cooling assistance

10% crisis assistance

Up to 15% weatherization assistance NOTE: If 15% is not used for weatherization assistance, the balance will be added to heating, cooling, or crisis assistance as needed.

0% carryover to the following Federal fiscal year

10% administrative and planning costs

0% services to reduce home energy needs including needs assessment (Assurance 16)

0% 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): funds are utilized for all eligible components.

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 at least one household member receives at least one of the following categories of benefits in the left column below? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Program	Cooling	Heating	Crisis	Weatherization
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Supplemental Security Income	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Means-tested Veterans Programs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

1.4a. - Provide your definition of categorical eligibility.

Categorical Eligibility for CEAP benefits exists when at least one person in the Household receives assistance from:

(1) SSI payments from the Social Security Administration;

(2) Means Tested Veterans Program payments. See paragraph (37) of §6.2 of this chapter (relating to Definitions);

(3) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); or

(4) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

1.5 Do you automatically enroll households without a direct annual application?
☐ Yes ☒ No

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?

Texas provides Categorical Eligibility for SNAP, TANF, SSI, and Means-Tested Veterans Programs. State rules have a provision that there is to be no difference in the treatment of Categorically Eligible Households. The Department has a system for persons to submit complaints, and the monitoring reviews would also note any differences in treatment of persons that are or are not Categorically Eligible.

SNAP Nominal Payments

1.7 Do you allocate LIHEAP funds toward a nominal payment for SNAP households? If you answered "yes" to question 1.7a you must provide a response to 1.7b, 1.7c, 1.7d.

a. ☐ Yes ☒ No

b. Amount of Nominal Assistance: $___NA_____

c. Frequency of Assistance:

- ☐ Once per year
- ☐ Once every five years
- ☐ Other (describe): _____NA_____

d. How do you confirm that the household receiving a nominal payment has an energy cost or need?

Determination of Eligibility – Countable Income

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

☒ Gross Income (except for self-employment or farm income or gambling/lottery winnings)

NOTE: Exceptions on use of gross income are provided for in 10 TAC §6.4.

☐ Net Income

☒ Other – Describe:

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

- ☒ Wages (except as prohibited by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998)
- ☒ 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 (except as excluded by federal law or 10 TAC §6.4)
- ☒ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits (except for one-time payments)
- ☐ 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, 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 (except for 38 USC 1315, 1521, 1541, 1542)
☐ 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
☐ AmeriCorps Program payments for living allowances, earnings, and in-kind aid (except if the CEO of the CNCS has made a determination that it be included income).
☐ Reimbursements (for mileage, gas, lodging, meals, etc.)
☒ Other Any item not excluded in 10 TAC §6.4 or by other federal law.

1.10 Do you have an online application process

☒ Yes ☐ No

1.10 a. If yes, describe the types of online application (Select all that apply)

☒ A PDF version of the application available online and can be downloaded, filled out and mailed in for processing.
☐ A state-wide online application that allows a customer to complete data entry and submit an application electronically for processing.
☒ One or more locally available online applications that allows a customer to complete data entry and submit an application electronically for processing.
☐ Online application that is also mobile friendly
☐ Other, please describe

NOTE: Some subrecipients have an online application that is form fillable or downloadable off their website, and can be submitted either electronically or by mail.

1.10b Can all program components be applied for online?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If no, explain which components can and cannot be applied for online.

Some of the State's subrecipients/contractors have an application to download from their website. A few subrecipients have an on-line application system.

1.11 Do you have a process for conducting and completing applications by phone

☒ Yes ☐ No

1.12 Do you or any of your subrecipients require in person appointments in order to apply

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please provide more information regarding why in-person appointments are required and in what circumstances they are required.

1.13 How can applicants submit documentation for verification? Select all that apply:

☒ In person
☒ Mail
☒ Email

☒ Portal application
☒ Other, please describe: The responses relate to the State's subrecipients/contractors.

Section 2 - HEATING ASSISTANCE

Eligibility, 2605(b)(2) – Assurance 2

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

Household Size	***Eligibility Guidelines***	***Eligibility Threshold***
All Household Sizes	USHHS Poverty Guidelines	150%

2.2 Do you have additional eligibility requirements for **HEATING ASSISTANCE?**
(NOTE: 10 TAC §6.307(f) states: "A Dwelling Unit cannot be served if the meter is utilized by another Household that is not part of the application for assistance. In instances where separate structures share a meter and the applicant is otherwise eligible for assistance, Subrecipient must provide services if: (1) the members of the separate structures that share a meter meet the definition of a Household per §6.2 of this Chapter (relating to Definitions); (2) the members of the separate structures that share a meter submit one application as one Household; and (3) all persons and applicable income from each structure are counted when determining eligibility.")

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

	Yes	No
● Do you require an assets test?	☐	☒
● Do you have additional/differing eligibility policies for:		
• Renters?	☐	☒
• Renters living in subsidized housing?	☐	☒
• Renters with utilities included in the rent?	☐	☒

(NOTE: Per 10 TAC §6.309(i)(7), Subrecipient may make payments to landlords on behalf of eligible renters who pay their utility and/or fuel bills indirectly. Subrecipient shall notify each participating household of the amount of assistance paid on its behalf. Subrecipient shall document this notification. Subrecipient shall maintain proof of utility or fuel bill payment. Subrecipient shall ensure that amount of assistance paid on behalf of customer is deducted from customer's rent.)

● Do you give priority in eligibility to:		
• Older Adults (60 years or older)?	☒	☐
• Individuals with a disability?	☒	☐
• Young children?	☒	☐
• Households with high energy burdens?	☒	☐
• Other? Households with high energy consumption	☒	☐

Explanations of policies for each "yes" checked above for Older Adults and for individuals with a disability, young children, high energy burden, and high energy consumption:

10 TAC §6.307(e) states "Subrecipients must establish a written procedure to serve Households that have a Vulnerable Population Household member, Households with High Energy Burden, and Households with High Energy Consumption. High Energy Burden shall be the highest rated item in sliding scale priority

determinations. The Subrecipient must maintain documentation of the use of the criteria." The state will provide a written procedure to a statewide or regional contractor.

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.

Subrecipients and statewide or regional contractors use a rating system which determines priority based on persons in Households who are particularly vulnerable such as the Elderly, Persons with Disabilities, Households with Young Children, Households with High Energy Burden, and Households with High Energy Consumption. Benefit amounts are determined on a sliding scale based on the Household's income. Households with the presence of a vulnerable member such as the Elderly, Persons with Disabilities, and Households with Young Children do not have a limit on the number of benefit payments, but adhere to the same benefit amounts. The maximum benefit amount is determined per program year based on the Household's heating and cooling need and is not required to be applied equally to heating and cooling costs.

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:)

Other: Subrecipient must make utility payments on behalf of Households based on the previous 12 month's home energy consumption history, including allowances for cost inflation. If a 12 month's home energy consumption history is unavailable, Subrecipient must base payments on a Department approved alternative billing method. If neither a 12 month's home energy consumption history nor an approved alternative billing method exists, then Subrecipient may base payments on current bill. Subrecipient will note such exceptions in customer files. Benefit amounts exceeding the actual bill shall be treated as a credit for the customer with the utility company. The Department recommends an ABM where the Subrecipient determines the average consumption amount (kWh, therms, MCF, gallons, etc.) per month, for each household size and type based on a minimum sample size of 30 files that contain complete billing histories; however, if it is not possible for subrecipients to obtain the recommended 30 file per household sample size to create an average consumption amount, Subrecipients should use all the applicable files to determine the average consumption and document the lack of files for that household size. Subrecipients can propose other types of ABMs. The state will provide statewide or regional contractors other types of ABMs, if required. The ABM proposed by the Subrecipient must be approved by the Department prior to utilization.

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

2.6 Describe estimated benefit levels for FY 2024:

$1 Minimum benefit $12,600 Maximum benefit

Note: The State of Texas does not have a minimum benefit amount. The amount of benefit/assistance indicates $1.00 because the OLDC system requires that a figure be inserted in the minimum amount.

The maximum benefit amount per household is $12,600 per program year and could be reached if a household received up to $1,800 in Crisis Assistance, $1,800 in Utility Assistance, and a $9,000 purchase, repair or replacement of a heating or cooling unit or crisis-related purchase of portable cooling and/or hearing units/window units/evaporative coolers/mini splits. The initial assistance payment that would include arrears does not count towards the annual benefit cap for a household.

The amount of benefit/assistance that an applicant is eligible for is based on their level of household income. Per 10 TAC §6.309(e), Households with incomes 0-50% of Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG) have a maximum of $1,800 for the Utility Assistance Component and the Crisis Assistance Component; Households with incomes more than 50% but at or below 75% FPIG have a maximum of $1,500 per Component; Households with incomes more than 75% but at or below 150% FPIG have a maximum of $1,200 per Component; and there is a maximum of up to $9,000 for the purchase, service or repair of heating and cooling units, replacement of irreparable existing heating and cooling unit components, or the purchase of portable cooling and/or hearing units/window units/evaporative coolers/mini splits depending on the classification of the household as vulnerable or non-vulnerable and whether a crisis exists. Subrecipients should attempt to repair individual components of a system; if a component(s) of the heating or cooling system cannot be repaired using parts, the Subrecipient can replace the component(s) in order to repair the heating or cooling system. The Department allows payment of 100% of a customer's annual usage in one lump sum payment. See 10 TAC §6.309, §6.310, and §6.311 for details.

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

☒ Yes ☐ No -- If yes, describe.

Under 10 TAC §6.310(c) Crisis Assistance Component, low income households may also be eligible for the following:

1) Emergency deliveries of fuel up to 250 gallons per crisis per Household including coverage for tank pressure testing;
2) Utility reconnection costs;
3) Blankets;
4) For Non-Vulnerable Populations, service and repair of existing heating and cooling units is allowed when the Household has an inoperable heating or cooling system or the system is not functioning according to its intended purpose;
5) For Households meeting the definition of Life-Threatening Crisis, purchase of portable cooling and/or heating units, window units, evaporative coolers, and mini splits is allowable;
6) Fans; and
7) Generators.

When Disasters result in energy supply shortages or other energy-related emergencies, eligible households may also receive assistance to cover the cost of temporary shelter or transportation.
For a complete description and more detail concerning these benefits and their eligibility requirements, refer to 10 TAC §6.310.
Per §6.310(d), eligible households may receive temporary shelter not to exceed the annual household expenditure limit for the duration of the contract period in the limited instances when Disasters result in energy supply shortages or other energy-related emergencies. Additionally, eligible households that have lost service or are in immediate danger of losing service and fall under an Extreme Weather Condition, a Disaster, or a Life Threatening Crisis as defined under §6.310(a), may receive other types of assistance such as emergency deliveries of fuel up to 250 gallons per crisis per Household, blankets, fans, and generators, if necessary.

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:

#	Household Size	Eligibility Guidelines	Eligibility Threshold
1	All Household Sizes	USHHS Poverty Guidelines	150%

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

NOTE: 10 TAC §6.307(f) states: "A Dwelling Unit cannot be served if the meter is utilized by another Household that is not part of the application for assistance. In instances where separate structures share a meter and the applicant is otherwise eligible for assistance, Subrecipient must provide services if: (1) the members of the separate structures that share a meter meet the definition of a Household per §6.2 of this Chapter (relating to Definitions); (2) the members of the separate structures that share a meter submit one application as one Household; and (3) all persons and applicable income from each structure are counted when determining eligibility."

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

	Yes	No
● Do you require an assets test?	☐	☒
● Do you have additional/differing eligibility policies for:		
• Renters?	☐	☒
• Renters living in subsidized housing?	☐	☒
• Renters with utilities included in the rent?	☐	☒

NOTE: Per 10 TAC §6.309(i)(7), Subrecipient may make payments to landlords on behalf of eligible renters who pay their utility and/or fuel bills indirectly. Subrecipient shall notify each participating household of the amount of assistance paid on its behalf. Subrecipient shall document this notification. Subrecipient shall maintain proof of utility or fuel bill payment. Subrecipient shall ensure that amount of assistance paid on behalf of customer is deducted from customer's rent.

● Do you give priority in eligibility to:

• Older Adults (60 years or older)?	☒	☐
• Individuals with a disability?	☒	☐

- Young children? ☒ ☐
- Households with high energy burdens? ☒ ☐
- Other? ☒ ☐
  Households with high energy consumption

Explanations of policies for each "yes" checked above for Older Adults, individuals with a disability, young children, high energy burden, and high energy consumption:

10 TAC §6.307(e) states "Subrecipients must establish a written procedure to serve Households that have a Vulnerable Population Household member, Households with High Energy Burden, and Households with High Energy Consumption. High Energy Burden shall be the highest rated item in sliding scale priority determinations. The Subrecipient must maintain documentation of the use of the criteria." The state will provide a written procedure to a statewide or regional contractor.

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

Subrecipients and statewide or regional contractors use a rating system which determines priority based on persons in Households who are particularly vulnerable such as the Elderly, Persons with Disabilities, Families with Young Children, Households with High Energy Burden, and Households with High Energy Consumption. Benefit amounts are determined on a sliding scale based on the Household's income. Households with the presence of a vulnerable member such as the Elderly, Persons with Disabilities, and Households with Young Children do not have a limit on the number of benefit payments, but adhere to the same benefit amounts. The maximum benefit amount is determined per-program year based on Household's heating and cooling needs and is not required to be applied equally to heating and cooling costs.

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)

Other: Subrecipient must make utility payments on behalf of Households based on the previous 12 month's home energy consumption history, including allowances for cost inflation. If a 12 month's home energy consumption history is unavailable, Subrecipient must base payments on a Department approved alternative billing method. If neither a 12 month's home energy consumption history nor an approved alternative billing method exists, then Subrecipient may base payments on current bill. Subrecipient will note such exceptions in customer files. Benefit amounts exceeding the actual bill shall be treated as a credit for the customer with the utility

company. The Department recommends an ABM where the Subrecipient determines the average consumption amount (kWh, therms, MCF, gallons, etc.) per month, for each household size and type based on a minimum sample size of 30 files that contain complete billing histories; however, if it is not possible for subrecipients to obtain the recommended 30 file per household sample size to create an average consumption amount, Subrecipients should use all the applicable files to determine the average consumption and document the lack of files for that household size. Subrecipients can propose other types of ABMs. The ABM proposed by the Subrecipient must be approved by the Department prior to utilization.

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

3.6 Describe benefit levels:

$1 Minimum benefit $12,600 Maximum benefit

Note: The State of Texas does not have a minimum benefit amount. The amount of benefit/assistance indicates $1.00 because the OLDC system requires that a figure be inserted in the minimum amount.

The maximum benefit amount per household is $12,600 per program year and could be reached if a household received up to $1,800 in Crisis Assistance, $1,800 in Utility Assistance, and a $9,000 purchase, repair or replacement of a heating or cooling unit or crisis-related purchase of portable cooling and/or hearing units/window units/evaporative coolers/mini splits. The initial assistance payment that would include arrears does not count towards the annual benefit cap for a household.

The amount of benefit/assistance that an applicant is eligible for is based on their level of household income. Per 10 TAC §6.309(e), Households with incomes 0-50% of Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG) have a maximum of $1,800 for the Utility Assistance Component and the Crisis Assistance Component; Households with incomes more than 50% but at or below 75% FPIG have a maximum of $1,500 per Component; Households with incomes more than 75% but at or below 150% FPIG have a maximum of $1,200 per Component; and there is a maximum of up to $9,000 for the purchase, service or repair of heating and cooling units, replacement of irreparable existing heating and cooling unit components, or the purchase of portable cooling and/or hearing units/window units/evaporative coolers/mini splits depending on the classification of the household as vulnerable or non-vulnerable and whether a crisis exists. Subrecipients should attempt to repair individual components of a system; if a component(s) of the heating or cooling system cannot be repaired using parts, the Subrecipient can replace the component(s) in order to repair the heating or cooling system. The Department allows payment of 100% of a customer's annual usage in one lump sum payment. See 10 TAC §6.309, §6.310, and §6.311 for details.

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

☒Yes ☐ No -- If yes, describe.

Under 10 TAC §6.310(c) Crisis Assistance Component, low income households may also be eligible for the following:

1) Emergency deliveries of fuel up to 250 gallons per crisis per Household including coverage for tank pressure testing;
2) Utility reconnection costs;

3) Blankets;
4) For Non-Vulnerable Populations, service and repair of existing heating and cooling units is allowed when the Household has an inoperable heating or cooling system or the system is not functioning according to its intended purpose;
5) For Households meeting the definition of Life-Threatening Crisis, purchase of portable cooling and/or heating units, window units, evaporative coolers, and mini splits is allowable;
6) Fans; and
7) Generators.

When Disasters result in energy supply shortages or other energy-related emergencies, eligible households may also receive assistance to cover the cost of temporary shelter or transportation.
For a complete description and more detail concerning these benefits and their eligibility requirements, refer to 10 TAC §6.310.

Per 10 TAC §6.310(d), eligible households may receive temporary shelter not to exceed the annual household expenditure limit for the duration of the contract period in the limited instances when Disasters result in energy supply shortages or other energy-related emergencies. Additionally, eligible households that have lost service or are in immediate danger of losing service and fall under an Extreme Weather Condition, a Disaster, or a Life Threatening Crisis as defined under 10 TAC §6.310(a), may receive other types of assistance such as emergency deliveries of fuel up to 250 gallons per crisis per Household, blankets, fans, and generators, if necessary.

Section 4: CRISIS ASSISTANCE

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

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

#	Household Size	Eligibility Guidelines	Eligibility Threshold	
1	All Household Sizes	USHHS Poverty Guidelines	150%	

4.2 Provide your LIHEAP program's definition for determining a crisis.
Crisis Assistance can be provided to persons who have already lost service or are in immediate danger of losing service only under one of the following conditions, as defined in 10 TAC §6.301 (relating to Background and Definitions):
(1) Extreme Weather Conditions, with assistance provided within 48 hours;
(2) Disaster, with assistance provided within 48 hours; or
(3) Life Threatening Crisis, with assistance provided within 18 hours.

4.3 What constitutes a life-threatening crisis?
A Life Threatening Crisis exists when the life of at least one person in the applicant Household who is a U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, or a Qualified Alien would likely, in the opinion of a reasonable person, be endangered if utility assistance or heating and cooling assistance is not provided. Examples of life endangerment include, but are not limited to, a Household member who needs electricity for life-sustaining equipment (e.g., kidney dialysis machines, oxygen concentrators, medicinal refrigeration and cardiac monitors); a Household member whose medical professional has prescribed that the ambient air temperature be maintained at a certain temperature; a Household member whose life is endangered if

absence of heating or cooling were to continue; or the presence of noxious gases as a result of heating or cooling the Dwelling Unit. In cases concerning an applicant's medical condition or need for life-sustaining equipment, documentation must not be requested about the medical condition of the applicant but the applicant must affirm that such a device is required in the Dwelling Unit because of a life threatening illness or risk of death.

Crisis Requirements, 2604(c)

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

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

NOTE: Pursuant to §2604(c)(2) of the LIHEAP Statute, the Department provides "some form of assistance that will resolve the energy crisis" not later than 18 hours after a household applies for crisis benefits if such household is eligible to receive such benefits and is in a life-threatening situation.

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.

	Yes	No
● Do you require an assets test?	☐	☒
● Do you give priority in eligibility to:		
• Older Adults (60 years and older)?	☒	☐
• Individuals with a disability?	☒	☐
• Young children?	☒	☐
• Households with high energy burdens?	☒	☐
• Other? Households with high energy consumption	☒	☐
● In order to receive crisis assistance: NOTE: The program has different requirements depending on whether the household contains a member of a priority group.		
• 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? ☒ ☐

  Explanation for Other: Crisis Assistance can be provided to persons who have already lost service or are in immediate danger of losing service only under one of the following conditions, as defined in 10 TAC §6.301 (relating to Background and Definitions):
  (1) Extreme Weather Conditions, with assistance provided within 48 hours;
  (2) Disaster, with assistance provided within 48 hours; or
  (3) Life Threatening Crisis, with assistance provided within 18 hours.

● Do you have additional/differing eligibility policies for:

- Renters? ☐ ☒
- Renters living in subsidized housing? ☐ ☒
- Renters with utilities included in the rent? ☐ ☒

NOTE: Per 10 TAC §6.309(i)(7), Subrecipient may make payments to landlords on behalf of eligible renters who pay their utility and/or fuel bills indirectly. Subrecipient shall notify each participating household of the amount of assistance paid on its behalf. Subrecipient shall document this notification. Subrecipient shall maintain proof of utility or fuel bill payment. Subrecipient shall ensure that amount of assistance paid on behalf of customer is deducted from client's rent.

Explanation for "yes" responses: The maximum benefit amount per household is $12,600 per program year and could be reached if a household received up to $1,800 in Crisis Assistance, $1,800 in Utility Assistance, and a $9,000 purchase, repair or replacement of a heating or cooling unit or crisis-related purchase of portable cooling and/or hearing units/window units/evaporative coolers/mini splits. The initial assistance payment that would include arrears does not count towards the annual benefit cap for a household.
The amount of benefit/assistance that an applicant is eligible for is based on their level of household income. Per 10 TAC §6.309(e), Households with incomes 0-50% of Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG) have a maximum of $1,800 for the Utility Assistance Component and the Crisis Assistance Component; Households with incomes more than 50% but at or below 75% FPIG have a maximum of $1,500 per Component; Households with incomes more than 75% but at or below 150% FPIG have a maximum of $1,200 per Component; and there is a maximum of up to $9,000 for the purchase, service or repair of heating and cooling units, replacement of irreparable existing heating and cooling unit components, or the purchase of portable cooling and/or hearing units/window units/evaporative coolers/mini splits depending on the classification of the household as vulnerable or non-vulnerable and whether a crisis exists. Subrecipients should attempt to repair individual components of a system; if a component(s) of the heating or cooling system cannot be repaired using parts, the Subrecipient can replace the component(s) in order to repair the heating or cooling system. The Department allows payment of 100% of a customer's annual usage in one lump sum payment. See 10 TAC §6.309, §6.310, and §6.311 for details.

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 $1,800

☒ Other
Heating and cooling equipment repair or replace up to $9,000

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

Explain: In addition to what is already stated in Section 2604(c)(3) of the LIHEAP Statute regarding the requirement that each Subrecipient accept applications at sites that are geographically accessible to all Households in the area to be served, 10 TAC §6.313(c) states "Subrecipient shall handle Reasonable Accommodation requests, in accordance with §1.204 of this title (relating to Reasonable Accommodations)." 10 TAC §1.204 (b) General Considerations in Handling of Reasonable Accommodations. An applicant, participant, or occupant who has a disability may request an accommodation and, depending on the program funding the property or activity and whether the accommodation requested is a reasonable accommodation, their request must be timely addressed."

4.11 Do you provide individuals who have physical disabilities the means to:

■Submit applications for crisis benefits without leaving their homes?

☒ Yes ☐ No If no, explain.

Applications can be mailed in. In some cases, applications may be completed online or the organization will go to the applicant's home to take the application.

In addition to what is already stated in Section 2604(c)(3) of the LIHEAP Statute regarding the requirement that each Subrecipient accept applications at sites that are geographically accessible to all Households in the area to be served, 10 TAC §6.313(c) states "Subrecipient shall handle Reasonable Accommodation requests, in accordance with §1.204 of this title (relating to Reasonable Accommodations)." 10 TAC §1.204 (b) General Considerations in Handling of Reasonable Accommodations. An applicant, participant, or occupant who has a disability may request an accommodation and, depending on the program funding the property or activity and whether the accommodation requested is a reasonable accommodation, their request must be timely addressed."

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

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, explain.

If you answered "No" to both questions 4.11, please explain alternative means of intake to those who are homebound or physically disabled.

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

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

Winter Crisis $ 0 maximum benefit

Summer Crisis $ 0 maximum benefit

Year-round Crisis $1,800 maximum benefit

4.13 Do you provide in-kind (e.g., blankets, space heaters, fans) and/or other forms of benefits?
☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, describe.

If a component(s) of the heating or cooling system cannot be repaired using parts, the Subrecipient and statewide or regional contractors can replace the component(s) in order to repair the heating or cooling system under the Utility Assistance Component for Vulnerable Households or Crisis Assistance Component for Non-Vulnerable Households. Where replacement is required, use of Energy Star heating and/or cooling units must be prioritized. Manual J procedures will be used to confirm that the units are appropriately sized.

LIHEAP will allow home energy related expenditures as described in 10 TAC §6.310(c).
All Households experiencing a Life-Threatening Crisis may be eligible to receive portable cooling and/or heating units/window units/evaporative coolers/mini splits (portable electric heaters are allowable only as a last resort).

Under 10 TAC §6.310(c) Crisis Assistance Component, low income households may also be eligible for the following:

1) Emergency deliveries of fuel up to 250 gallons per crisis per Household including coverage for tank pressure testing;
2) Utility reconnection costs;
3) Blankets;
4) For Non-Vulnerable Populations, service and repair of existing heating and cooling units is allowed when the Household has an inoperable heating or cooling system or the system is not functioning according to its intended purpose;
5) For Households meeting the definition of Life-Threatening Crisis, purchase of portable cooling and/or heating units, window units, evaporative coolers, and mini splits is allowable;
6) Fans; and
7) Generators.

Per §6.310(d), eligible households may receive temporary shelter not to exceed the annual household expenditure limit for the duration of the contract period in the limited instances when Disasters result in energy supply shortages or other energy-related emergencies. Additionally, eligible households that have lost service or are in immediate danger of losing service and fall under an Extreme Weather Condition, a

Disaster, or a Life Threatening Crisis as defined under §6.310(a), may receive other types of assistance such as emergency deliveries of fuel up to 250 gallons per crisis per Household, blankets, fans, and generators, if necessary.

When Disasters result in energy supply shortages or other energy-related emergencies, eligible households may also receive assistance to cover the cost of temporary shelter or transportation.
For a complete description and more detail concerning these benefits and their eligibility requirements, refer to 10 TAC §6.310.

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:

Type of Assistance	**Winter Crisis**	**Summer Crisis**	**Year-round Crisis**
Heating system repair			X
Heating system replacement (only components of a central HVAC system)			X
Cooling system repair			X
Cooling system replacement (only components of a central HVAC system)			X
Wood stove purchase			
Pellet stove purchase			
Solar panel(s)			
Utility poles / Gas line hook-ups			
Other (Specify: Households which include a member of a Vulnerable Population with an inoperable heating or cooling unit may be eligible for service and repair of their existing heating or cooling unit. Purchase of a heating and/or cooling unit up to $9,000 is allowable if a heating or cooling system is nonexistent. For Households who do not have a member of a Vulnerable Population, such assistance is limited to times when a Crisis exists as defined in 10 TAC §6.310(a). In a Life Threatening Crisis, all Households may be eligible to receive portable cooling and/or heating units/window units/evaporative coolers/mini splits (portable electric heaters are allowable only as a last resort).			X

4.16 Do any of the utility vendors you work with enforce a winter moratorium on shut offs? If you respond "Yes" to question 4.16, you must respond to question 4.17. ☒ Yes ☐ No

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

Specific to energy assistance clients, §25.483(i) of the Texas Public Utilities Commission rules provides that a Retail Electric Provider (REP) shall not authorize a disconnection for nonpayment of electric service to a delinquent residential customer for a billing period in which the REP receives a pledge, letter of intent, purchase order, or other notification that the energy assistance provider is forwarding sufficient payment

to continue service provided that such pledge, letter of intent, purchase order, or other notification is received by the due date stated on the disconnection notice, and the customer, by the due date on the disconnection notice, either pays or makes payment arrangements to pay any outstanding debt not covered by the energy assistance provider. Additionally, the rule provides that if an energy assistance provider has requested monthly usage data pursuant to §25.472(b)(4) (relating to Privacy of Customer Information), the REP shall extend the final due date on the disconnection notice, day for day, from the date the usage data was requested until it is provided; and that a REP shall allow at least 45 days for an energy assistance provider to honor a pledge, letter of intent, purchase order, or other notification before submitting the disconnection request to the TDU.

There are protections for several other categories of clients and situations applicable to LIHEAP clients served:
§25.483(g) provides that a REP shall not authorize a disconnection for nonpayment of electric service at a permanent, individually metered dwelling unit of a delinquent Critical Care Residential Customer when that customer establishes that disconnection of service will cause some person at that residence to become seriously ill or more seriously ill.
§25.483(h) provides that a REP shall not authorize a disconnection for nonpayment of electric service at a permanent, individually metered dwelling unit of a delinquent customer when that customer has been designated as a Chronic Condition Residential Customer pursuant to 25.497 with noted rule exceptions.
§25.483(j) provides that a REP shall not authorize a disconnection for nonpayment of electric service for any customer in a county in which an extreme weather emergency occurs. A REP shall offer residential customers a deferred payment plan upon request by the customer that complies with the requirements of 25.480 (relating to Bill Payment and Adjustments) for bills that become due during the weather emergency. The term “extreme weather emergency” shall mean a day when:
(A) the previous day’s highest temperature did not exceed 32 degrees Fahrenheit, and the temperature is predicted to remain at or below that level for the next 24 hours anywhere in the county, according to the nearest National Weather Service (NWS) reports; or
(B) the NWS issues a heat advisory for a county, or when such advisory has been issued on any one of the preceding two calendar days in a county.

4.18 If you experience a natural disaster, do you intend to utilize LIHEAP crisis funds to address disaster related crisis situations?
☒ Yes ☐ No

Subrecipients are able to utilize LIHEAP for assistance during a Disaster in compliance with 10 TAC §6.310:

(d) When Disasters result in energy supply shortages or other energy-related emergencies or have lost service or are in immediate danger of losing service, CEAP will allow home energy related expenditures for:

(1) Temporary Shelter in the limited instances that supply of power to the Dwelling Unit is disrupted or in immediate danger of losing services causing a temporary evacuation.

(2) Cost to temporary Shelter or house individuals in hotel, apartments or other living situations in which homes have been destroyed or damaged when health and safety is endangered by loss of access to heating and cooling.

(3) Costs for transportation (e.g., cars, shuttles, buses) to move the individuals away from the crisis area to Shelters when health and safety is endangered by loss of access to heating and cooling.

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:

#	Household Size	Eligibility Guidelines	Eligibility Threshold
1	All Household Sizes	USHHS Poverty Guidelines	150%
2		State	

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

5.3 If yes, name the agency. N/A

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).

☒ Other (describe):

- When leveraging with DOE funding, subrecipients may weatherize units up to 200% FPIG.
- If Subrecipient leverages LIHEAP with any DOE weatherization funds, all federal and state rules and current Weatherization Program Notice (WPN) requirements will apply, including but not limited to income calculation requirements as outlined in applicable DOE WPNs or updated Income Determination Notices in accordance with State Rules. An exception applies when addressing optional measures under the

LIHEAP priority list in cases where no compliant equipment is manufactured.

- Adhere to language from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 that Paragraph (2) of Section 415(c) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 USC 6865(c)) is amended to allow re-weatherization for a dwelling unit not previously weatherized using federal funds until the date that is 15 years after the date such previous weatherization has passed.
- 10 TAC Part 1, Chapter 6, Subchapter D, Weatherization Assistance Program, is one area where the LIHEAP funded weatherization program adheres to DOE regulations.
- TDHCA uses a priority list for LIHEAP households at 150% or below USHHS poverty income level. A Department approved LIHEAP Priority list or a DOE approved Priority List, updated when applicable, provides the prescribed method to be used by Subrecipients when addressing weatherization measures.
- Energy-related home repair: TDHCA will allow the use of LIHEAP weatherization funds for incidental repairs only if required to enable effective weatherization.
- If LIHEAP funds are included in a DOE unit, the energy audit, or applicable priority list(s), must be used to justify all measures.
- TDHCA will allow, with written permission, LIHEAP WAP funds to be used in the weatherization of DOE Identified HUD and USDA properties using DOE income calculation requirements and Income Determination (i.e., 200% Federal Poverty Income Guidelines).

☐ 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

	Yes	No
5.6 Do you require an assets test?	☐	☒
5.7 Do you have additional/differing eligibility policies for:		
• Renters?	☐	☒
• Renters living in subsidized housing?	☐	☒
• Renters with utilities included in the rent?	☐	☒

5.8 Do you give priority in eligibility to:

- Older Adults? ☒ ☐
- Individuals with a disability? ☒ ☐
- Young children? ☒ ☐
- Households with high energy burdens? ☒ ☐
- Other? ☒ ☐
  Explanation: Households with high energy consumption

Explanation for Yes responses:

10 TAC §6.406(c) states "Subrecipients must establish a written procedure to serve Households that have a Vulnerable Population Household member, Households with High Energy Burden, and Households with High Energy Consumption. High Energy Burden shall be the highest rated item in sliding scale priority determinations. The Subrecipient must maintain documentation of the use of the criteria." The state will provide a written procedure to a statewide or regional contractor.

Subrecipients and statewide or regional contractors use a rating system which determines priority based on persons in Households who are particularly vulnerable such as the Elderly, Persons with Disabilities, Families with Young Children, Households with High Energy Burden, and Households with High Energy Consumption.

Benefit Levels

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

Yes	**No**
☒	☐

5.9a. If yes, what is the maximum? $12,000

5.10 Do you use an Average Cost per Unit (ACPU)?

Yes	**No**
☐	☒

5.10a. If yes, what is ACPU amount? NA

NOTE: unless additional expenditure is authorized in writing by the Department.

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

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

☒ Weatherization needs/assessments/audits

☒ Caulking and insulation

☒ Storm windows

☒ Furnace/heating system modifications/repairs

☒ Furnace replacement

☒ Cooling system modifications/repairs

☒ Water conservation measures

☒ Compact fluorescent light bulbs

☒ Energy related roof repair

☒ Major appliance repairs

☒ Major appliance replacement

☒ Windows/sliding glass doors

☒ Doors

☒ Water Heater

☒ Cooling system replacement

☐ Roof top solar

☐ Community solar projects

☒ Other (describe)
Solar screens or window film. Smart thermostats, incidental repairs up to $500 only if required to enable effective weatherization; Window screens to help prevent exposure to the Zika virus for Households with pregnant women.

If an appropriate measurable savings in energy expenditures by Low-Income Households can be achieved, LIHEAP weatherization funds may be used for the installation of solar panels for eligible Households.

If any of the questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

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.

☒ Web posting

☒ Email

☒ Texting

☒ Events

☒ Social Media

☒ Other (specify): LIHEAP Subrecipients are to conduct outreach related to the utility assistance program and other assistance provided with the LIHEAP grant. The Department encourages Subrecipients to conduct outreach through various methods to inform people without internet services about the LIHEAP utility assistance program. Entities to be informed include, but is not limited to, units of government, local non-profits, charitable organizations, and churches. Other ways that persons are to be informed is through utility vendors who include information in client bills about the LIHEAP utility assistance program and the State's phone number to contact if they need utility assistance. Some utility vendors may inform customers and persons who are pending disconnection or who have had their services disconnected about the LIHEAP provider serving their area or provide them with the State phone number to contact. LIHEAP Subrecipients also are to use social media and periodically run radio announcements and newspaper ads.

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. Explanation: LIHEAP subrecipients have a single intake for their programs.
☒ Intake referrals to/from other programs. Explanation: Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) refers programs and other programs administered.
☐ 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?**
Report of available services at various workgroup meetings with community stakeholders (disability, health services, homeless, etc), and presentation at area events.

8.3 How do you provide alternate outreach and intake for **COOLING ASSISTANCE?**
Report of available services at various workgroup meetings with community stakeholders (disability, health services, homeless, etc), and presentation at area events.

8.4 How do you provide alternate outreach and intake for **CRISIS ASSISTANCE**?
In instances of Disasters, subrecipients and statewide or regional contractors coordinate with other assistance organizations (shelters, Red Cross, etc.). Report of available services at various workgroup meetings with community stakeholders (disability, health services, homeless, etc), and presentation at area events.

Question 8.5	**Heating**	**Cooling**	**Crisis**	**Weatherization**
8.5a. Who determines client eligibility?	Local governments, CAAs and Other Nonprofits, Statewide or Regional Contractors	Local governments, CAAs and Other Nonprofits, Statewide or Regional Contractors	Local governments, CAAs and Other Nonprofits, Statewide or Regional Contractors	Local governments, CAAs and Other Non-profits, Statewide or Regional Contractors
8.5b. Who processes benefit payments to gas and electric vendors?	Local governments, CAAs and Other Nonprofits, Statewide or Regional Contractors	Local governments, CAAs and Other Nonprofits, Statewide or Regional Contractors	Local governments, CAAs and Other Nonprofits, Statewide or Regional Contractors	N/A

Question 8.5	**Heating**	**Cooling**	**Crisis**	**Weatherization**
8.5c. Who processes benefit payments to bulk fuel vendors?	Local governments, CAAs and Other Nonprofits, Statewide or Regional Contractors	Local governments, CAAs and Other Nonprofits, Statewide or Regional Contractors	Local governments, CAAs and Other Nonprofits, Statewide or Regional Contractors	N/A
8.5d. Who performs installation of weatherization measures?	N/A	N/A	N/A	Local governments, CAAs and Other Nonprofits-most subcontract with local contractors, Statewide or Regional Contractors

Note for 8.5: In the USHHS-OLDC system where the State Plan is entered, it only allows states to select one type of entity. The Department will select Nonprofits; although we will also contract with Units of government and CAAs.

8.6 What is your process for selecting local administering agencies?
The Department ensures that to the extent it is necessary to designate local administrative agencies in order to carry out the purposes of Title 42 U.S.C. §§8621, et seq. special consideration is given to any local public or private nonprofit agency which was receiving CSBG or LIHEAP funds.
(1) The Department before giving such special consideration, determines that the agency involved meets program and fiscal requirements established by law and by the Department; and

(2) if there is no such agency because of any change in the assistance furnished to programs for economically disadvantaged persons, then the Department gives 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.

Currently, the Department administers all aspects of program delivery through subrecipients and statewide/regional contractors that have demonstrated they are operating the program in accordance with the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§8621, et seq.), and Department rules. If subrecipients and statewide/regional contractors are successfully administering the program, the Department may offer to renew the contract. However, in order to achieve full expenditure of funding, the Department may reallocate funds that have been voluntarily relinquished or deobligated in compliance with TAC rule §6.304. Additionally, if the State receives a large supplemental appropriation for LIHEAP, the Department may allocate some or all of the funds to a statewide or regional contractor.

If the Department determines that an organization is not administering the program satisfactorily, corrective actions are taken to remedy the problem. Thereafter, if a Subrecipient fails to administer the program correctly, the Department may proceed with the process provided for in Department rules of removing funds and reassign the service area or a portion to another existing Subrecipient or conduct solicitation or selection of a new Subrecipient in accordance with the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981. The affected Subrecipient may request a hearing in accordance with §2105.204 of the Texas Government Code.

However, the Department retains the right to go through a procurement process for some or all aspects of the LIHEAP program.

8.7 How many local administering agencies do you use? 35

8.8 Have you changed any local administering agencies from last year? ☐ Yes ☒ No

8.9 If so, why?
- ☐ Agency was in noncompliance with grantee requirements for LIHEAP
- ☐ Agency is under criminal investigation
- ☐ Added agency
- ☐ Agency closed

☐ Other – describe – voluntary relinquishment

Explanation: N|A

8.10 If a subrecipient is no longer providing LIHEAP, are you aware of prior-year LIHEAP funds being mismanaged or misspent? ☐ Yes ☒ No

8.10a If yes, please explain.

8.10b If you are aware, were other federal programs impacted such as CSBG, SSBG, Head Start, TANF, and Department of Energy Weatherization funding, etc.

8.10c If yes, please explain.

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

If yes, describe: Per 10 TAC §6.309(i)(7), Subrecipient may make payments to landlords on behalf of eligible renters who pay their utility and/or fuel bills indirectly. Subrecipient shall notify each participating household of the amount of assistance paid on its behalf. Subrecipient shall document this notification. Subrecipient shall maintain proof of utility or fuel bill payment. Subrecipient shall ensure that amount of assistance paid on behalf of customer is deducted from client's rent.

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

The administering Subrecipient/contractor informs them once the determination is made.

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 are used in all components. The Department provides Subrecipients and statewide or regional contractors with a Department approved Vendor Agreement to utilize. The document can be found at the Department's website at https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/comprehensive-energy-assistance-program-ceap-program-guidance

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 are used in all components. The Department provides Subrecipients and statewide or regional contractors with a Department approved Vendor Agreement to utilize. The document can be found at the Department's website at https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/comprehensive-energy-assistance-program-ceap-program-guidance

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, describe

the measures unregulated vendors may take. Attach a copy of the template statewide vendor agreement or a policy that indicates local agreements must adhere to statewide policies and assurances.

For Section 9, if any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here. N/A

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?

1. Review annual audits
2. Monitor fiscal records
3. Review current and prior year monthly expenditure and performance reports

10.1a. Provide your definitions of the following:

Obligation: Funds become obligated upon approval of an award to Subrecipient by the Department's Governing Board, unless the Department does not receive sufficient funding from the cognizant federal entity.

Expenditures: Funds that have been accrued or remitted for purposes of the award.

Expenditure timeframe: The contract time period.

Administrative costs: Staff salaries and fringe benefits and overhead costs (such as office space, supplies, equipment, communication costs, travel, etc.) related to staff performing general program and planning duties and not related to direct program service delivery. General program administration and program planning activities include, but are not limited to:

- outreach/targeting activities; program activities, processes, implementation, etc.; budgeting; establishing staff goals and objectives;
- Program personnel management
- Updating/maintaining vendor agreements
- Financial and Performance reporting; accounting processes
- General program work, work related to preparing monitoring responses

Audit Process

10.2. Is your LIHEAP program audited annually under the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133? ☒ Yes ☐ No

10.2a. if yes, describe your auditor selection process.

The State Auditor's Office (SAO) is responsible for carrying out the duties of the Single Audit and OMB A-133. The SAO currently outsources this portion of the statewide audit to the audit firm of Clifton Larson Allen (CLA).

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. (Document referenced: Statewide Single Audit Report for the Year Ended August 31, 2025 (Issued Feb 2026 – Report No. 26-318))

Finding	Type	Brief Summary	Resolved?	Action Taken
2025-017	Cash Management Improvement Act	TDHCA did not prepare a Period 1 clearance pattern calculation for LIHEAP based on at least three consecutive months of disbursement data as required. Although the Treasury-State Agreement specifies a three-day average clearance pattern for the program, TDHCA did not maintain or provide documentation supporting how this clearance pattern was developed. As a result, the clearance pattern was not auditable, and we were unable to determine whether TDHCA's practices for drawing federal funds aligned with the CMIA requirements.	Report issued Feb 2026. Resolution due August 2026.	Corrective Action in progress. The Department will enhance current procedures for the compilation and review of the Period 1 clearance pattern calculation in accordance with the Cash Management Improvement Act (CMIA) and as required in the Texas-State Agreement. The Manager of Accounting will use the State Auditor Office's template spreadsheet provided to agencies to calculate their annual Period 1 calculation and retain the worksheet as supporting documentation. The Director of Financial Administration will review the spreadsheet and calculation prior to CMIA certification. Implementation date: August 2026.
2025-018	Quarterly Performance and Management Reporting	Auditors identified a discrepancy in the quarter 1 report (October 1 – December 31). The report stated that $159,463,428 in LIHEAP funds had been obligated by funding source in Section 3 – Estimated Use of Funds; however, supporting documentation reflected obligated funds totaling	Report issued Feb 2026. Resolution due August 2026.	Corrective Action in progress. Program staff will ensure that a formal review by the Team Lead and the Manager of Fiscal and Reporting is completed prior to submission. The Team Lead will initiate the process by obtaining the obligation amount from the LIHEAP Contract Specialist and entering the amount into the quarterly report. The Manager of Fiscal and Reporting will review and confirm the amount to be submitted.

		$174,447,109, resulting in a variance of $(14,983,681).		Implementation date: August 2026.

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 Single Audit and OMB Circular A-133, 2 CFR Part 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance).NOTE: Subrecipients will follow the audit requirements in 45 CFR 75 Subpart F, as applicable, and the requirements in the Texas Single Audit Act.

☐ Local agencies/district offices are required to have an annual audit (other than A-133, 2 CFR 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance)).

10.4 (continued)

☒ Local agencies/district offices A-133, 2 CFR 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) or other independent audits are reviewed by Grantee as part of compliance process.

☒ Grant recipient conducts fiscal and program monitoring of local agencies/district offices.

☒ Local agencies and district offices are required to have an annual audit in compliance with Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133

Compliance Monitoring

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

Subgrantees have a policy in place for appropriate separation of duties and internal controls:

☒ Internal program review
☒ Departmental oversight
☐ Secondary review of invoices and payments
☒ Other program review mechanisms are in place. Describe: Cross Division peer review of documents

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: Desk review of 2 CFR Part 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance); A review of the Subrecipient's resolution of prior monitoring or Single Audit reports is performed prior to awarding new contracts.

10.6 Explain, or attach a copy of your local agency monitoring schedule and protocol. Response: See attached monitoring schedule. The monitoring schedule is aggregate in nature and determined on a quarterly basis during the Department's fiscal year. The schedule is created on an at-risk assessed basis. A tentative schedule is attached as requested, but is subject to change based on quarterly risk-based assignments.

10.7 Describe how you select local agencies for monitoring reviews?
On-site monitoring visits and desk reviews are mechanisms used for in-depth investigation and overall assessment, respectively. The Department will conduct on-site monitoring reviews and desk reviews of contracts based on an assessment of risk of non-compliance with program requirements. Monitors review necessary program documents and financial records through desk reviews and on-site reviews. LIHEAP Subrecipients and statewide or regional contractors are monitored (for prior year funding) at least once every three years. This is a component of the risk assessment score. If a Subrecipient also has Community Service Block Grant funds, the LIHEAP monitoring may be done at the same time. Subrecipients and statewide or regional contractors that leverage LIHEAP funds with DOE funds for weatherization are subject to a programmatic, fiscal, and unit inspection review according to the DOE monitoring schedule (once a year). Contracts may also be selected for monitoring based on other factors, such as prior monitoring findings, issues noted in the Single Audit, complaints, and/or special requests.

10.8 How often is each local agency monitored? At least once every three years.

10.9 How many local agencies are currently on corrective action plans? (Number only) 1
*South Texas Development Council is pending possible termination as a LIHEAP subrecipient.

If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.

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:

Public Hearings, 2605(a)(2)

11.2 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
Thursday, May 14, 2026, 5:30 PM-6:00 PM	Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs 221 East 11th Street, 1st Floor Austin, TX 78701
Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 1:00 PM-1:30 PM p.m.	BakerRipley First Floor Education Center 3838 Aberdeen Way Houston, TX 77025
Thursday, May 14, 2026, 1:00 PM-1:30 PM	Northside Community Center 1100 NW 18th Str, Room R44133 Fort Worth, TX 76164
Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM	West Texas Opportunities 1415 East 2nd Street Odessa, TX 79761

11.3 How many parties commented on your plan at the hearing(s)? 3

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

3 Comments:

1) Commenter requests that the maximum CEAP benefit levels be increased from $1200/$1500/$1800 to $1600/$1900/$2200.
2) Commenter requests that the average health and safety cost per unit percentage be increased due to rising construction and labor costs.
3) Commenter asks if current market conditions and the state of the economy are considered in the determination of the maximum CEAP benefit levels.

11.5 What changes did you make to your LIHEAP plan as a result of the comments received at the public hearing(s)? There were no changes made to the Plan as a result of the comments.

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? N/A

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 and or not acted upon in a timely manner.

An Applicant requests a hearing with the Subrecipient and statewide or regional contractors initially. If not satisfied with the results of the Subrecipient's and statewide or regional contractor's hearing, the Applicant then appeals to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to conduct a review of the subrecipient's decision. If still not satisfied, the applicant can then request a contested hearing

under Tex. Gov't Code, Chapter 2001 which is conducted by the State Office of Administrative Hearings on behalf of the Department.

Subrecipient contracts include the following section:

APPEALS PROCESS

In compliance with the LIHEAP Act, Subrecipient must provide an opportunity for a fair administrative hearing to individuals whose application for assistance is denied, terminated or not acted upon in a timely manner. Subrecipient must establish a denial of service complaint procedure in accordance with 10 TAC §6.8 of the State Rules. The rule states:

(b) Subrecipient shall establish a denial of service complaint procedure to address written complaints from program applicants/customers. At a minimum, the procedures described in paragraphs (b)(1) - (8) of this subsection shall be included:

(1) Subrecipients shall provide a written denial of assistance notice to applicant within ten (10) calendar days of the determination. Such a determination is defined as a denial of assistance, but does not include a level of assistance lower than the possible program limits or a reduction in assistance, as long as such process is in accordance with the Subrecipient's written policy. This notification shall include written notice of the right of a hearing and specific reasons for the denial by program. The applicant wishing to appeal a decision must provide written notice to Subrecipient within twenty (20) days of receipt of the denial notice.

(2) A Subrecipient must establish an appeals committee composed of at least three persons. Subrecipient shall maintain documentation of appeals in their customer files.

(3) Subrecipients shall hold a private appeal hearing (unless otherwise required by law) by phone or in person in an accessible location within ten (10) business days after the Subrecipient received the appeal request from the applicant and must provide the applicant notice in writing of the time/location of the hearing at least seven (7) calendar days before the appeal hearing.

(4) Subrecipient shall record the hearing.

(5) The hearing shall allow time for a statement by Subrecipient staff with knowledge of the case.

(6) The hearing shall allow the applicant at least equal time, if requested, to present relevant information contesting the decision.

(7) Subrecipient shall notify applicant of the decision in writing. The Subrecipient shall mail the notification by close of business on the third calendar day following the decision (three day turn-around).

(8) If the denial is solely based on income eligibility, the provisions described in paragraphs (2) - (7) of this subsection do not apply and the applicant may request a recertification of income eligibility based on initial documentation provided at the time of the original application. The recertification will be an analysis of the initial calculation based on the documentation received with the initial application for services and will be performed by an individual other than the person who performed the initial determination. If the recertification upholds the denial based on income eligibility documents provided at the initial application, the applicant is notified in writing.

(c) If the applicant is not satisfied, the applicant may further appeal the decision in writing to the Department within ten (10) days of notification of an adverse decision.

(d) Applicants/customers who allege that the Subrecipient has denied all or part of a service or benefit in a manner that is unjust, violates discrimination laws, or without reasonable basis in law or fact, may request a contested hearing under Tex. Gov't Code, Chapter 2001.

(e) The hearing under subsection (d) shall be conducted by the State Office of Administrative Hearings on behalf of the Department in the locality served by the Subrecipient, for which the procedures are further described in §1.13, relating to Contested Case Hearing Procedures, of this title.
(f) If the applicant/customer appeals to the Department, the funds should remain encumbered until the Department completes its decision.

These requirements will also be incorporated into statewide or regional contractor Contracts.

12.5 When and how are applicants informed of these rights?

Applicants are informed of their rights either by 1) informing them on the application itself, 2) handing them a document with such information at the time of application, 3) displaying posters at intake offices, or 4) providing them the information in the denial of LIHEAP assistance letter that is mailed to the applicant.

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?
N/A-The State does not use funds under Assurance 16.

13.2 How do you ensure that you don't use more than 5% of your LIHEAP funds for these activities?
NA-The State does not use funds under Assurance 16.

13.3 Describe the impact of such activities on the number of households served in the previous Federal fiscal year.
NA-The State does not use funds under Assurance 16.

13.4 Describe the level of direct benefits provided to those households in the previous Federal fiscal year.
NA-The State does not use funds under Assurance 16.

13.5 How many households received these services?
NA-The State does not use funds under Assurance 16.

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 any third parties and/or local agencies for submitting LIHEAP leveraging resource information and retaining records. NA

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:

Resource	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 LIHEAP?
NA	NA	NA	NA

Section 15: Training

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

a. Grantee recipient Staff:

☒ Formal training on grantee policies and procedures

How often?

☐ Annually

☐ Biannually

☒ As needed

☐ Other – Describe:

☐ Employees are provided with policy manual

☒ Other – Describe:

Employees are provided with all the information necessary to administer the LIHEAP program(s). The Department training team provides new staff with programmatic orientation training and are invited to observe and participate in Subrecipient trainings as well.

b. Local Agencies:

☒ Formal training conference

How often?

☒ Annually

☐ Biannually

☒ As needed

☒ Other – Describe: Training for Subrecipients occurs at an annual conference sponsored by the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies each year. Additionally, the Department continually collaborates with the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies to coordinate training for Subrecipients. The Department hosts meetings and training events on an as needed basis with Subrecipients and statewide or regional contractors to conduct necessary training and/or make announcements. The Department offers a manager training for newly hired managers or Executive Directors, as needed, which is then followed up with individualized technical assistance. From a program implementation standpoint, the Department provides a template for developing the Annual Service Delivery Plan and a guide for developing it. The Department also develops data tools and trains agencies as needed on how to analyze their data to improve efficiency and productivity. Emails, Go-To-Webinars, MS Teams for virtual TTA, and phone calls are common communication means with which the Department trains, assists, and communicates with LIHEAP Subrecipients and statewide or regional contractors.

☒ On-site training

How often?

Annually

☐ Biannually

☒ As needed

☒ Other –

The Department identifies key areas for training needs based upon monitoring reports, new regulations, and Subrecipient and statewide or regional contractors requests. The Department has effective virtual training courses to address Subrecipient TTA needs. The Department provides training as needed to individual agencies and network wide trainings on a variety of topics such as: process mapping, production, data analysis, intake, client file documentation, weatherization assessments, audits, final inspections, working with contractors, reporting, and technical assistance for service delivery. Onsite training is provided as warranted. The Department also supplies Subrecipients with online resources, training centers, and conference information to obtain skills and certifications.

☐ Employees are provided with policy manual

☒ Other – Describe: The Department hosts quarterly calls with the Subrecipient network to address necessary training topic(s), production evaluation, and/or make announcements. The Department uses an online portal (i.e., Wufoo) that agencies use daily for quick responses to questions or for requesting training. Emails, Wufoo, Go-To-Webinar, MS Teams for virtual TTA, and phone calls are the common methods used by the Department to train, assist, and communicate with LIHEAP Subrecipients and statewide or regional contractors. The Department creates tools, guides, cheat sheets, and FAQs that are posted on program webpages. As needed, the Department schedules meetings to provide information, training, and technical assistance to the local agencies.

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 your progress toward meeting the data collection and reporting requirements of the four required LIHEAP performance measures. Include timeframes and plans for meeting these requirements and what you believe will be accomplished in the coming federal fiscal year.

The Department was able to meet the four LIHEAP performance measures.

The Department currently requires Subrecipients and statewide or regional contractors to upload data related to the four performance measures into our State reporting system. The Department has made this reporting a contractual requirement for all LIHEAP Subrecipients and statewide or regional contractors. The Department periodically reviews uploaded summary reports and offers technical assistance to Subrecipients and statewide or regional contractors who may not understand what to report or may not upload the data in a timely fashion.

The Department will review the outcomes of the performance data reports to determine any training needs or changes to programs design that are needed.

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. Select all that apply.

- ☒ 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:

Note: TDHCA's website has a webpage named "Report Fraud, Waste, and Abuse by TDHCA Management and Staff" directing persons who suspect fraud, waste, and abuse by TDHCA management and staff to report to the State Auditor's Office at https://sao.fraud.texas.gov/ReportFraud/. Subrecipients are required to establish fraud, waste, and abuse procedures. The state will provide a fraud, waste, and abuse procedures to statewide or regional contractors.

b. Describe strategies in place for advertising the above-referenced resources. Select all that apply.

- ☐ Printed outreach materials
- ☐ Posted in local administering agencies offices
- ☐ Addressed on LIHEAP application
- ☒ Website
- ☐ Other - Describe

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.

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 ☐	Required ☐	Required ☐
	Requested ☐	Requested ☐	Requested ☐
Social Security Number (without actual card)	Required ☐	Required ☐	Required ☐
	Requested ☐	Requested ☐	Requested ☐
Government-issued identification card (e.g.,: driver's license, state ID, Tribal ID, passport, etc.)	Required ☒	Required ☒	Required ☒
	Requested ☐	Requested ☐	Requested ☐

#	Other	Applicant Only Required	Applicant Only Requested	All Adults in House hold Required	All Adults in Household Requested	All Household Members Required	All Household Members Requested
1	**Other: clients provide identification to the subrecipients and statewide or regional contractors at the time of application. See attachment.**	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

*Households may include members who are not seeking assistance and may not be included in the household count. A live in aide or attendant is not considered part of the Household for purposes of determining Household income, but is considered for a benefit based on the size of the Household.

b. Describe any exceptions to the above policies: NA

17.3 Citizenship/Legal Residency Verification

What are your procedures for ensuring LIHEAP recipients are U.S. citizens or qualified non-citizens who are eligible to receive LIHEAP benefits? Select all that apply.

☐ Clients sign an attestation of citizenship or U.S. Citizen or Qualified Non-Citizen
☐ Clients' submission of certain Social Security Administration cards is accepted as proof of U.S. Citizen or Qualified Non-Citizen
☒ Non-Citizens 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 enrollment records/Tribal ID card
☒ Other – describe: U.S. Nationals will have to provide documentation of that status. Birth Certificate, naturalization papers, or passport are acceptable methods to demonstrate citizenship, but other documents could also be used. Tribal members could be identified through Tribal enrollment records/Tribal ID card but could also provide other documentation of citizenship.

	Other	Applicant Only Required	Applicant Only Requested	All Adults in Household Required	All Adults in Household Requested	All Household Members Required	All Household Members Requested
1	**Other: clients provide identification to the subrecipients and statewide or regional contractors at the time of application.**					☒	

17.4 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: Court Documents or government benefit statements as applicable.

☐ 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:

17.5 Identification Verification

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

☐ 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 (for tribal grantees only)
☐ Match SSN/Tribal ID number with tribal database or enrollment records (for tribal grantees only)

☒ Other – describe:
Subrecipients or statewide/regional contractors verify the authenticity of identification documents provided by clients who are not U.S. citizens or nationals. That verification is made through the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system.

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
- ☒ Grant recipient LIHEAP database includes privacy/confidentiality safeguards
- ☒ Employee training on confidentiality for:
  - ☒ Grant recipient employees
  - ☒ local agencies/district offices
- ☐ Employees must sign confidentiality agreement
  - ☐ Grant recipient employees
  - ☐ local agencies/district offices
- ☒ Physical files are stored in a secure location
- ☒ Electronic files are protected in a secure location.
- ☒ Other – describe: Grantee contracts include the following section:

17.6 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

Physical files are stored in a secure location

RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS

Subrecipients and statewide or regional contractors acknowledge that any information created or exchanged with the State of Texas pursuant to this Contract, must be available in a format that is accessible by the public at no additional charge to the State of Texas. A request for public information shall be communicated to the Department's contact identified in this Contract, by the close of business

on the following business day after the request is received. Subrecipient/Vendor shall not provide to the requestor any information that was written, produced, collected, assembled, or maintained under this Contract, but shall respond to the requestor that the request has been forwarded to the Department for processing. After gathering all information that is responsive to the request, but in no event later than five (5) business days after receiving the information request, Subrecipient/Vendor shall send the information to the Department and shall timely contact the Department if there will be any delay in sending the information request or responsive documents to the Department.

Texas Administrative Code, Title 10 Chapter 1, Subchapter D §1.409 requires that:

(a) Client Records including Multifamily Development Owners. The Department requires subrecipient organizations to document client services and assistance. Subrecipient organizations must arrange for the security of all program-related computer files through a remote, online, or managed backup service. Confidential client files must be maintained in a manner to protect the privacy of each client and to maintain the same for future reference. Subrecipient organizations must store physical client files in a secure space in a manner that ensures confidentiality and in accordance with Subrecipient organization policies and procedures. To the extent that it is financially feasible, archived client files should be stored offsite from Subrecipient a headquarters, in a secure space in a manner that ensures confidentiality and in accordance with organization policies and procedures.
(b) Records of client eligibility must be retained for five (5) years starting from the date the Household activity is completed, unless otherwise provided in federal regulations governing the program.
(c) Other records must be maintained as described in the Contract or the LURA, and in accordance with federal or state law for the programs described in the Chapters of this Part.

These requirements will also be incorporated into statewide and regional contractor Contracts.

17.7 Verifying the Authenticity of Energy Vendors

What policies are in place for verifying vendor authenticity?

- ☐ All vendors must register with the State/Tribe
- ☐ 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? Select all that apply.

- ☐ 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? Select all that apply.

☐ 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
☐ Vendors are only paid once they provide a delivery receipt signed by the client
☐ 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:

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. Select all that apply.

☒ 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.
☐ Clients found to have committed fraud are banned from LIHEAP assistance. For how long is a household banned?
☒ Contracts with local agencies require that employees found to have committed fraud are reprimanded and/or terminated
☒ Vendors found to have committed fraud may no longer participate in LIHEAP
☒ Other — describe: A Subrecipient and statewide or regional contractors may be referred to the Department's Enforcement Committee or proposed for debarment.

Section 18: 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 Nonprocurement 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.

☒ By checking this box, the prospective primary participant is providing the certification set out above.

Section 19: Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workforce 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 Nonprocurement 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)

221 East 11th Street

Austin, Travis County, Texas, 78701

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]

☒By checking this box, the prospective primary participant is providing the certification set out above.

Section 20: Certification Regarding Lobbying

The submitter of this application 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.

☒ By checking this box, the prospective primary participant is providing the certification set out above.

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

The following documents must be attached to this application:

- Assurances signature page (submitted as separate document)
- Designation letter for signature to Assurances is required if someone other than the Governor or Tribal Chairperson signs the Assurances. (submitted as separate document)
- Heating component benefit matrix. (Attachment 3)
- Cooling component benefit matrix. (Attachment 3)
- Local Agency Monitoring Schedule (Attachment 4)

Attachment 3

Benefit Matrix

Program rules found at 10 Texas Administrative Code, §6.309(e): https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=10&pt=1&ch=6&rl=309 . .

All benefits are determined based on a sliding scale.

(e) Benefit determinations for the Utility Assistance Component and the Crisis Assistance Component cannot exceed the sliding scale described in paragraphs (1) - (3) of this subsection:

(1) Households with Incomes of 0 to 50% of Federal Poverty Guidelines may receive an amount not to exceed $1,800 per Component;

(2) Households with Incomes more than 50% but at or below 75% of Federal Poverty Guidelines may receive an amount not to exceed $1,500 per Component; and

(3) Households with Incomes more than 75% but at or below 150% of Federal Poverty Guidelines may receive an amount not to exceed $1,200 per Component; and

(f) Service and Repair of existing heating and cooling units: Households may receive up to $9,000 for service and repair of existing heating and cooling units, replacement of irreparable existing heating and cooling unit components, when the Household has an inoperable heating or cooling system based on requirements in §6.310 and §6.311.

(g) Purchase of heating and cooling units. Households may receive up to $9,000 for the purchase of a heating and cooling unit when a heating or cooling system is nonexistent based on requirements in §6.310 of this subchapter (relating to Crisis Assistance Component) for Non-Vulnerable Population Households and §6.311 of this subchapter (relating to Utility Assistance Component) for Vulnerable Population Households.

(h) Assistance with purchase of portable cooling and/or heating units, window units, evaporative coolers, and mini splits cannot exceed $9,000. Refer to §6.310(c)(5) of this subchapter for requirements relating to purchase of these types of units.

Attachment 4

Monitoring Schedule for FY 2027

	SUBRECIPIENT	REVIEW TYPE	FY Date of Next Monitoring Review	DATE OF LAST FULL ONSITE REVIEW (IF APPLICABLE)
1	Alamo Area Council of Governments	On-Site	2027	February 2026
2	Aspermont Small Business Development Center, Inc.	On-Site	2029	February 2026
3	BakerRipley	On-Site	2026	March 2025
4	Bexar County Community and Development Programs	On-Site	2026	January 2023
5	Brazos Valley Community Action Programs	On-Site	2027	October 2025
6	City of Fort Worth Neighborhood Services Department	On-Site	2026	July 2025
7	City of Lubbock Community Development Department	On-Site	2028	May 2025
8	Combined Community Action, Inc.	On-Site	2027	September 2025
9	Community Action Corporation of South Texas	On-Site	2026	November 2024
10	Community Action Inc. of Central Texas	On-Site	2029	February 2026
11	Community Council of South Central Texas, Inc.	On-Site	2026	November 2025
12	Community Services Northeast Texas, Inc.	On-Site	2027	March 2024
13	Concho Valley Community Action Agency	On-Site	2026	October 2025
14	Cornerstone Community Action Agency	On-Site	2027	March 2024
15	County of Hidalgo Community Services Agency	On-Site	2027	August 2024
16	Crossroads Community Action	On-Site	2026	February 2025
17	Dallas County Health and Human Services	On-Site	2026	February 2025
18	Economic Action Committee of the Gulf Coast	On-Site	2026	January 2023
19	Economic Opportunities Advancement Corporation of Planning Region XI	On-Site	2027	January 2026
20	El Paso Community Action Program-Project BRAVO	On-Site	2026	July 2025
21	Greater East Texas Community Action Program	On-Site	2026	May 2025
22	Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc.	On-Site	2026	October 2025
23	Kleberg County Human Services	On-Site	2027	October 2024
24	Nueces County Community Action Agency	On-Site	2027	October 2024
25	Panhandle Community Services	On-Site	2027	February 2026
26	Pecos County Community Action Agency	On-Site	2027	April 2024
27	Rolling Plains Management Corporation	On-Site	2026	March 2025
28	South Plains Community Action Association, Inc.	On-Site	2026	September 2024
29	South Texas Development Council	On-Site	2026	October 2022
30	Texas Neighborhood Services	On-Site	2028	July 2025
31	Texoma Council Of Governments	On-Site	2026	April 2025
32	Travis County Health and Human Services	On-Site	2026	June 2025
33	Tri-County Community Action, Inc.	On-Site	2027	August 2024
34	Webb County Community Action Agency	On-Site	2028	January 2025
35	West Texas Opportunities, Inc.	On-Site	2026	July 2025