

PY26 LIHEAP PRIORITY LIST

For Single-Family, Mobile Homes, and Small Multi-Family Buildings

Effective for Program Year 2026 LIHEAP Contracts

An energy conservation measure (“ECM”) may include contributory items necessary for the proper installation of that ECM. The installed cost of all contributory items, associated with the proper installation, cannot exceed the cost of the individual ECM cost. Both the contributory and ECM costs are to be wrapped for the total ECM cost.

Contributory Item: Items required by current WAP Regulations, current adopted versions of NREL Standard Work Specifications (“SWS”), or State of Texas adopted International Residential Code (“IRC”) to achieve a final product in a typical installation. Contributory items must be necessary to complete the proper installation and ensure proper performance of the ECM.

Incidental Repair is defined as: repairs necessary on items for the effective preservation of weatherized materials.

Instructions for Priority List:

1. Perform the Major Measures in order as they appear on the list below. Documentation (including client denial of major measures) must be provided if a Major Measure is not addressed, or end result is not achieved.
 - If the unit does not meet required criteria, then Major Measures have not been completed adequately and additional work must be considered and/or completed.
 - **Subrecipient CANNOT perform any Secondary measures until ALL criteria for Major Measures have been adequately addressed and/or installed.**
 - *If Subrecipient does NOT meet or exceed the required criteria for major measures consistently across program years, future LIHEAP Weatherization contracts for Subrecipient could be restricted on the installation of secondary measures.*
2. Once Major Measures have been adequately addressed, any of the Secondary Measures may be addressed in any order according to the professional judgment of the Subrecipient staff.
 - Decisions should be based on what is best for each individual client and unit and what has the best potential energy savings impact for that household, while maximizing allowable program expenditures.

Major Measures

1. Health & Safety
 - a. Households that have a pregnant woman – Window screens/Solar screens to help prevent exposure to the Zika Virus.
 - b. Must meet ASHRAE62.2-2016 Standard.
 - c. Refer to the current Health & Safety Plan.
 - d. To include cook stoves –refer to current Texas Health & Safety Plan.
2. Air Infiltration
 - a. NO MAXIMUM COST LIMITATION.
 - b. All costs (labor and materials) must be detailed on the Building Weatherization Report (“BWR”).
 - c. Complete current Blower Door Data Sheet as instructed.
 - d. At Subrecipient Final Inspection, MUST MEET or EXCEED the Blower Door Target as defined by TDHCA WAP Air Infiltration and Duct Sealing Target Policy.
3. Duct Sealing
 - a. NO MAXIMUM COST LIMITATION.
 - b. All return ducts to be sealed regardless of location.
 - c. All supply ducts to be sealed when in unconditioned space.
 - d. At Subrecipient Final Inspection, MUST MEET or EXCEED Duct Blaster Target (With Reference to Outside) as defined by TDHCA WAP Air Infiltration and Duct Sealing Target Policy.
4. Attic Insulation
 - a. If existing insulation is assessed below local code requirement, must insulate to meet current code or to maximum capacity.
 - b. Block all heat sources & attic hatches.
 - c. If no insulation is added but ventilation needed, install ventilation under H&S.
5. Wall Insulation
 - a. Check all exterior walls for existing insulation levels.
 - i. If adequately insulated, document and proceed to next measure.
 - ii. If not adequately insulated, dense pack applicable wall cavities, including above and below all windows and doors.
6. Floor Insulation
 - a. If addressed, must follow current code.
 - b. Vapor barrier always required.
 - c. Follow OSHA accessibility standards.

Secondary Measures

- Refrigerator
 - a. Replacement must be within the primary living conditioned space and justified by LIHEAP WAP Refrigerator Replacement Calculator or units fifteen (15) years old or more can be replaced without metering or further justification, as long as manufactured year is documented.
 - b. Replacement refrigerator must have a label rating of less than 400kWh/yr.
 - c. Replaced units must be de-manufactured properly, materials must be recycled and refrigerant properly disposed of in accordance with EPA regulations.
- Low-Cost Measures
 - a. Water Savers – aerators (≤ 2.2 GPM) and low flow showerheads (≤ 2.5 GPM).

- b. Water heater tank ($\geq R10$)/pipe ($\geq R2.5$) insulation.
 - c. LED lighting replacement of all existing screw-based incandescent, halogen, or CFL used for a minimum of one hour per day.
 - d. Change and leave up to twelve (12) new air filters, per HVAC system.
- Smart Thermostat
 - a. Install only after consultation/training with client.
- Solar Screens/Window Film
 - a. Install in the following order:
 - i. West, South, East, then North side of house.
 - b. If the windows are covered by any permanent shading structure, then solar screens/window film cannot be installed on that window.
- Incidental Repairs
 - a. Maximum expenditure allowed is Five Hundred and No/100 Dollars (\$500.00).
 - b. Must be related to weatherization measure.
 - c. Materials could include: lumber, shingles, flashing, siding, drywall, masonry supplies, minor window and door repair, gutters, downspouts, paint, stains, and sealants.
 - d. Regarding mobile homes: could include mobile home skirting and overhangs to protect mobile home doors.
 - e. Could also include carpentry work to protect water heaters located outside to protect DWH from weather elements.
 - f. Could include roof, wall, and floor repair; excluding leveling.
 - g. Repair of “essential wiring”
 - i. Essential wiring defined as any wiring going directly to an appliance that is being addressed by the WX program.
- HVAC/Evaporative Cooler Replacement
 - a. Complete replacement of furnace/AC/HVAC as energy efficiency measure is possibility.
 - i. Must meet current Energy Star rating for complete system replacement.
 - ii. Must document accurate Manual J and Manual S in client file.
 - iii. HVAC units with a SEER or downgraded SEER of 12 or less should be replaced. Documentation of the downgraded formula should be in the client file as part of the assessment.
 - iv. The Replacement of Furnace or AC only components of the HVAC system in cases where the existing furnace or existing AC does not meet the degraded AFUE/SEER will be allowed as long as the following criteria is met:
 - 1. If the existing furnace is downgraded above 68% AFUE but the AC is 12 SEER or less, the AC components may be replaced, provided the new equipment meets 2023 minimum efficiency standards and must have a valid AHRI rating.
 - 2. If the existing furnace is downgraded below 68% AFUE but the AC is 12 SEER or above, the furnace may be replaced with equipment rated at 90% AFUE or higher and must have a valid AHRI rating.
 - 3. Documentation of the downgraded formulas must be in the client file as part of the assessment.
 - v. Replace existing ducted electric resistance forced-air furnace and air conditioning combination with a heat pump.

- b. Repair of central system is potentially allowable. If HVAC does not meet replacement criteria & duct sealing is addressed and/or at an acceptable level, the HVAC repair can be completed without further justification. Repairs can include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Clean and tune.
 - ii. Clean Evaporative and Condensing coils.
 - iii. Check/adjust gas pressure.
 - iv. Clean blower wheel (squirrel cage).
 - v. Check all controls, set heat anticipator if applicable.
 - vi. Clear out or redirect condensate drain line(s) and pan, as needed.
- c. Replacement of window air conditioners.
 - i. No replacement of window air-conditioners if a central system is replaced or repaired to working order.
 - ii. Replacement must be justified by LIHEAP WAP AC Replacement Tool or units eight (8) years old or more can be replaced without metering or further justification, as long as manufactured year is documented.
 - iii. Replacement unit must be a minimum of 12 CEER or higher unit of the same or lesser BTU capacity and sized according to manufacturer's room sizing specifications.
- d. Mini split replacement option.
 - i. Replacement of existing mini-split system is an option if downgraded SEER is 13.5 or below. Replace with minimum Energy Star, or equivalent, rated mini-split system. Documentation of the downgraded formulas must be in the client file as part of the assessment.
 - ii. Replace existing combination of non-ducted fixed electric resistance heat (e.g., electric baseboard/space heater, and PTAC units), and non-ducted air conditioning (i.e., window or room A/C, including PTAC) with a minimum Energy Star, or equivalent, rated mini-split heat pump system.
 - iii. Installation of an Energy Star, or equivalent, rated mini-split(s) to replace multiple room air conditioners, that are justified for replacement according to criteria above, is an allowable option, if, and only if, the mini-split installation is more cost-effective (EX: lower total cost for mini-split install vs cumulative RAC install costs).
- Doors and/or Windows
 - a. Doors/windows that are structurally unsound or unable to be repaired may be replaced.
 - b. Prior to replacement, Subrecipient must receive written Department approval. If prior approval is not received, costs are disallowed.
 - i. Request for approval must include: unit address, sufficient written and photo documentation to support request, documentation to show all major measures are either sufficiently addressed.