

LIHEAP2015

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NATIONAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 17-19, 2015, BALTIMORE, MD
University of Baltimore, 1420 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland

AGENDA

(Unless otherwise noted, sessions will take place in the Town Hall Auditorium, Learning Commons Building, University of Baltimore.)

Day 1: Wednesday, June 17

- 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. **Registration**
- 8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. **Plenary: OCS Welcome and Introduction**
Greetings and welcome to the 2015 LIHEAP National Conference!
Speaker: Lauren Christopher, Director, Division of Energy Assistance
- 8:45 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. **Session: Overview of LIHEAP/Grantee Roles and Responsibilities**
This session will discuss the history and purpose of LIHEAP, the flexibilities associated with block grant design, funds allocation, and the roles and responsibilities of grantees in designing and administering LIHEAP.
*Speakers: Lauren Christopher, Director, Division of Energy Assistance
Akm Rahman, Operations Branch Chief, Division of Energy Assistance*
- 9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. **Break**
- 9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. **Session: Obligations vs. Expenditures**
This session will cover the differences between the concepts of financial obligation and expenditures, the role that grantees play in defining those terms, and how those definitions shape multiple programmatic and financial aspects of LIHEAP.
Speaker: Yuliya Rzad, Program Analyst, Division of Energy Assistance
- 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Lunch Break**
- 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Session: Native American Tribes and LIHEAP**
As a new coordinator, this session is designed to help you understand your role in interactions between State and tribal LIHEAP grantees. Topics to be discussed include the importance of State-Tribe agreements, prevention of duplicate payments, and outreach and intake strategies for Native American tribes not directly funded by OCS.
Speaker: Lauren Christopher, Director, Division of Energy Assistance



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Session: Monitoring Models

LIHEAP grantees have monitoring responsibilities to be aware of and various options for models to employ. Best practices presented will ensure understanding of fiscal and program monitoring with sub-grantees, vendors, and State agencies.

*Speakers: Katherine Haydon, Program Analyst, Division of Energy Assistance
Josephine Rago-Adia, Program Analyst, Division of Energy Assistance*

2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Break

2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Session: Required Reporting

An overview of all required reports, due dates, information needed, and the submission process.

*Speakers: Jamia Furbush, Program Analyst, Division of Energy Assistance
Leon Litow, Senior Program Analyst, Division of Energy Assistance*

3:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Session: Open Question/Answer Session
Open Question/Answer Session (all DEA staff)

Day 2: Thursday, June 18

State Track

8:00 a.m. - 12 noon

State Track: Performance Measures

Get prepared for mandatory collection and reporting of performance measures data. This session will walk you through the concrete steps you need to take to collect the information you need to report to OCS.

Moderator: Leon Litow, Senior Program Analyst, Division of Energy Assistance

Speakers: APPRISE, Inc.

Tribal Track

9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Tribal Track: Creating a Benefits Matrix

Location: Room 201

We will use this session to explain the benefits matrix and various models and approaches to its design. Throughout this hands-on training, attendees will be able to ask questions and work through a spreadsheet to help them create a customized benefits matrix.

Speakers: Yuliya Rzad, Program Analyst, Division of Energy Assistance

Peter Edelman, Program Analyst, Division of Energy Assistance

10:30 a.m. - 12 noon

Tribal Track: Policy Development

Location: Room 201

This session will outline the key components of a LIHEAP Policy Manual and present examples of various policy decisions made by LIHEAP tribal grantees. Attendees will leave this session with the foundation and start of a tribal policy manual in hand.

Speakers: Josephine Rago-Adia, Program Analyst, Division of Energy Assistance

Yuliya Rzad, Program Analyst, Division of Energy Assistance

12 noon - 1:15 p.m.

Lunch Break

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Session: Weatherization Rules: LIHEAP and DOE Options

This session will discuss different approaches to administering LIHEAP-funded weatherization. Speakers from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will discuss DOE weatherization rules and major design components grantees should keep in mind if choosing to define their own LIHEAP rules.

Moderator: Jamia Furbush, Program Analyst, Division of Energy Assistance

Speakers: Holly Ravesloot, Lead Energy Technology Program Specialist,

Weatherization Assistance Program, U.S. Department of Energy

Akm Rahman, Operations Branch Chief, Division of Energy Assistance

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Session: HUD Healthy Homes Framework

Learn more about integrating weatherization and healthy home interventions! This session will introduce grantees to the Healthy Homes framework and will include speakers from the City of Baltimore Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative.

Moderator: Peter Ashley, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Speakers: Ken Strong, Deputy Commissioner, Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development, Division of Green, Healthy and Sustainable Homes

Ruth Ann Norton, President and CEO, Green & Healthy Homes Initiative

Bill Long, Director, Center for Radon and Air Toxics, Indoor Environments Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Break

3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Session: Financial Counseling: The Next Generation

Reinvigorate your Assurance 16 activities and learn about the new frontier in financial capability education. *Your Money, Your Goals* is a toolkit developed by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office of Financial Empowerment for organizations that serve low-income consumers. *Your Money, Your Goals* is a resource that organizational staff can use to help the people that they serve set goals, choose financial products, and build skills in managing money, credit, and debt.

Moderator: Katherine Haydon, Program Analyst, Division of Energy Assistance

Speakers: Gretchen Lehman, Director, Assets for Independence Program, Office of Community Services

Zachary Teutsch, Evaluation and Impact Specialist, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Session: Open Question/Answer Session

Day 3: Friday, June 19

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Session: Corrective Action Plans

We will discuss the importance of having a strong corrective action plan and what should be covered to be in compliance with Federal regulations. These plans are used to help address benchmarks and audit findings and to identify who will need additional monitoring, training, and technical assistance. Under the new OMB Uniform Administrative Guidance, grantees are required to implement corrective action plans in reviewing sub-grantee audit findings as well as their own.

Speaker: Iris Curtis, Auditor, Administration for Children and Families

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Session: Sub-Grantee Risk Assessments

As a grantee, you have responsibilities to conduct risk assessments of any sub-grantees. We will cover recommended practices to help you with your monitoring and procurement processes. Under the new OMB Uniform Administrative Guidance, grantees are required to perform risk assessments of sub-grantees in performing sub-grantee monitoring.

Moderator: Akm Rahman, Operations Branch Chief, Division of Energy Assistance

*Speakers: Iris Curtis, Auditor, Administration for Children and Families
John Harvanko, Director of Energy Assistance Programs, State of Minnesota Department of Commerce*

10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m. - 12 noon

Session: Federal Updates From the LIHEAP Office

This session will identify the latest news and information from the Office of Community Services (OCS) and present best practices and commonly found issues from recent grantee site visits.

*Speakers: Lauren Christopher, Director, Division of Energy Assistance
Akm Rahman, Operations Branch Chief, Division of Energy Assistance
Leon Litow, Senior Program Analyst, Division of Energy Assistance*

12 noon - 4:00 p.m.

Meetings: 1-on-1 Consultations for Grantees

OCS and APPRISE staff will be available for 30-minute consultations with grantees. Meetings will need to be scheduled in advance by contacting OCS to meet with their regional liaison and/or a subject matter expert, e.g., auditor, allocations, reporting, etc.

*Lauren Christopher, Director, Division of Energy Assistance
Akm Rahman, Operations Branch Chief, Division of Energy Assistance
Iris Curtis, Auditor, Administration for Children and Families
Peter Edelman, Program Analyst, Division of Energy Assistance
Jamia Furbush, Program Analyst, Division of Energy Assistance
Katherine Haydon, Program Analyst, Division of Energy Assistance
Leon Litow, Senior Program Analyst, Division of Energy Assistance
Josephine Rago-Adia, Program Analyst, Division of Energy Assistance
Yuliya Rzad, Program Analyst, Division of Energy Assistance*

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Focus Group on Future T&TA Needs

An opportunity will be offered for grantees to have a roundtable discussion with OCS and NEADA about future T&TA needs and priorities.

Facilitators:

Lauren Christopher, Director, Division of Energy Assistance

Akm Rahman, Operations Branch Chief, Division of Energy Assistance

Mark Wolfe, NEADA

Vicki DeKoekkoek, NEADA