

**LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)**

**ABBREVIATED MODEL PLAN**

**PUBLIC LAW 97-35, AS AMENDED**

**FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2008-2009**

**GRANTEE Virginia Department of Social Services**

**EIN: 54-095933**

**ADDRESS 7 North Eighth Street,**

**Richmond, Virginia 23219**

**NAME OF LIHEAP COORDINATOR Andrea Gregg , Manager**

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**LAST DETAILED MODEL PLAN FILED: FY 2008**

**PLEASE CHECK ONE: TRIBE \_\_\_\_\_ STATE  INSULAR AREA \_\_\_\_\_**

**Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Office of Community Services  
Washington, D.C. 20447**

**August 1987, revised 05/92, 02/95, 03/96, 12/98, 11/01  
OMB Approval No. 0970-0075, Expiration Date: 10/31/2008**

**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 a grantee is not required to use the detailed model plan. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes 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 Commonwealth of Virginia \_\_\_\_\_ agrees to:  
(Grantee Name)

(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 the greater of—

(i) an amount equal to 150 percent of the poverty level for such State; or

(ii) an amount equal to 60 percent of the State median income;

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

(3) 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 fiscal year preceding the 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 vendored payments remains at the option of the State in consultation with local grantees and may be contingent on unregulated vendors taking appropriate measures to alleviate the energy burdens of eligible households, including providing for agreements between suppliers and individuals eligible for benefits under this Act that seek to reduce home energy costs, minimize the risks of home energy crisis, and encourage regular payments by individuals receiving financial assistance for home energy costs;

(8) 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 fiscal year and not transferred pursuant to section 2604(f) for use under another block grant; 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 disbursement of and accounting for Federal funds paid to the State under this title, including procedures for monitoring the assistance provided under this title, and provide that the State will comply with the provisions of chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as the "Single Audit Act");

(11) 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 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. Territories with annual allotments of \$200,000 or less and Indian tribes/tribal organizations are not 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: Director, Division of Benefit Programs

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

### **Modified LIHEAP FY 2009 Application**

Please list all changes made from your most recent detailed plan.

<u>Page</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Modification</u>
*18	The Weatherization Assistance Program <u>Capital Intensive</u> maximum benefit/ expenditure level	Increased from \$3,200 to \$4,000
18	The Weatherization Assistance Program <u>Average</u> benefit/expenditure level	Increased from \$2,885 to \$3,200
20	Direct payments to eligible households	The VDSS has implemented direct payments to eligible households that have their utility payment automatically debited/withdrawn.
27	Revised description of EnergyShare leveraging activity	Dominion Virginia Power's EnergyShare has been expanded to a year-round program, now offering Cooling Assistance in addition to Fuel and Crisis Assistance.

**\*Per letter of amendment to the Office of Community Services/ACF/HHS, Division of Energy Assistance dated March 28, 2008, the Weatherization Assistance Program Capital Intensive maximum was increased from \$3,200 to \$4,000 in the state plan.**

Please specify whether you are using calendar year 2008 poverty level **or** FY 2009 median income estimates in determining eligibility:

2008 poverty level 130 %

**OR**

FY 2009 median income \_\_\_\_\_ %

Please describe how you obtained public participation in the development of your 2009 plan. (For States, please also provide information on your public hearings.):

The grantee encourages public participation in the development of the state plan through: (1) input from local departments of social services; and (2) a public hearing.

Notification of the Public Hearing was communicated as follows:

- Notification of the LIHEAP public hearing was published in the legal notices section of the Richmond Times Dispatch and the Washington Post newspapers and on their news websites Sunday July 20, 2008.
- Notification of the LIHEAP public hearing was posted on the Commonwealth Calendar of Events located on the Official Commonwealth of Virginia Government Website.
- A broadcast was posted on SPARK, an internal website for local departments of social services (LDSS), soliciting comments on a draft version of the LIHEAP state plan. Comments were accepted from Monday, July 22 through Friday, August 1, 2008.
- Notification of the LIHEAP public hearing was posted on the communication screen located in the Patrick Henry State Government Building.

Notice of Public Hearing – The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) held a public hearing on Thursday, July 24, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the 5<sup>th</sup> floor conference room, of the VDSS State Office, located at 7 North Eighth Street, Richmond, Va. No one attended the public hearing; there were no comments submitted.

Date Carryover and Reallotment report submitted: August 1, 2008

Submit Continuation Pages as Necessary



## ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Attached are additional certifications required as follows:

- \* **Lobbying certification**, which must be filed by all States and territories. If applicable, Form LLL, which discloses lobbying payments, must be submitted. **(Tribes and tribal organizations are EXEMPT.)**
- \* **Debarment and suspension certification**, which must be filed by all grantees.
- \* **Drug-free workplace requirement certification**, which must be filed by all grantees, unless the grantee has filed a statewide certification with the Department of Health and Human Services. **STATES ONLY:** If you have filed a statewide certification for the drug-free workplace requirement, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_
- \* One of the requirements included in the 1994 reauthorization of the statute is that grantees must include in their annual application for funds a report on the number and income levels of households applying for and receiving LIHEAP assistance, and on the number of recipient households that have members who are elderly, disabled, or young children.

**All Tribes and those territories with allotments of less than \$200,000** need only submit data on the number of households served by each component (heating, cooling, weatherization and crisis). The approval for the collection of information contained in the **LIHEAP Household Report** is covered by OMB approval number 0970-0060.

- \* Though not a part of this application, the report on funds to be carried over or available for reallocation as required by section 2607(a) for the preceding year must be submitted by August 1 of each year. A grant award for the current fiscal year may not be made until the carryover/reallocation report is received. The approval for the collection of information contained in the **LIHEAP Carryover and Reallocation Report** is covered by OMB approval number 0970-0106.