

ATTACHMENT 3

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

DETAILED MODEL PLAN

PUBLIC LAW 97-35, AS AMENDED

FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2021

GRANTEE POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS

EIN: 63-0705119

ADDRESS: 5811 Jack Spring Rd.

Atmore, AL 36502

NAME OF LIHEAP COORDINATOR: Amanda Montgomery, Family Services Director

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TELEPHONE: (251)-368-9136 **FAX:** (251)-368-0828

PLEASE CHECK ONE: TRIBE **STATE** _____ **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.

GRANTEE Poarch Band of Creek Indians FFY 2021

Assurances

The POARCH BAND OF CREEK INDIANS 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 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 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 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. 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: Stephanie Bryan, Chair, Poarch Band of Creek Indians

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.

statutory
references

2605(a)

2605(b)(1) → Please 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.)

		<u>Dates of Operation</u>
(use of funds)	<u> x </u> heating assistance	<u>October – March</u>
	<u> x </u> cooling assistance	<u>April – September</u>
	<u> x </u> crisis assistance	<u>October – September</u>
	<u> </u> weatherization assistance	<u> </u>

2605(c)(1)(C) → Please 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%.**

(use of funds)

40 % heating assistance

30 % cooling assistance

20 % crisis assistance

2605(k)(1) % weatherization assistance

% carryover to the following fiscal year

2605(b)(9) 10 % administrative and planning costs

2605(b)(16) % services to reduce home energy needs including needs assessment (assurance 16)

% used to develop and implement leveraging activities (limited to the greater of 0.08% or \$35,000 for States, the greater of 2% or \$100 for territories, tribes and tribal organizations).

100% **TOTAL**

statutory
references

2605(c)(1)(C)

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

(alternate use
of crisis assistance
funds)

heating assistance

cooling assistance

weatherization assistance

Other(specify): Crisis Assistance

→ Do you accept applications for energy crisis assistance at sites that are geographically accessible to all households in the area to be served? (This is required by the statute.)

Yes No

2605(b)(2)

2605(c)(1)(A)

→ What are your maximum eligibility limits?

(Please check the components to which they apply.)

Current year guidelines must be used.

(eligibility)

150% of the poverty guidelines:

heating cooling crisis wx

125% of the poverty guidelines:

heating cooling crisis wx

110% of the poverty guidelines:

heating cooling crisis wx

60% of the State's median income:

heating cooling crisis wx

Other (specify for each component)

Households automatically eligible if one person is receiving
 TANF, SSI, Food Stamps Certain means-
tested veterans programs (heating cooling crisis wx)

statutory
references

2605(c)(1)(A)
2605(b)(2)
(eligibility)

→Do you have additional eligibility requirements for:
HEATING ASSISTANCE _____ Yes x No)

→Do you use: Yes No

Assets test? _____ x

→Do you give priority in eligibility to:

Elderly? x _____

Disabled? x _____

Young children? x _____

Other: _____ x
(If Yes, please describe)

statutory
references

2605(c)(1)(A)
2605(b)(2)

→Do you have additional eligibility requirements for:
COOLING ASSISTANCE (Yes x No)

(eligibility)

→Do you use:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Assets test?	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>

→Do you give priority in eligibility to:

Elderly?	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
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Disabled?	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
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Young children?	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
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Other: (If Yes, please describe)	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
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statutory
references

2604(c)
2605(c)(1)(A)

→Do you have additional eligibility requirements for:
CRISIS ASSISTANCE (Yes No)

(eligibility)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
→Do you use:		
Assets test?	_____	_____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Must the household have received a shut-off notice or have an empty tank?	_____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Must the household have exhausted regular benefit?	_____	_____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Must the household have received a rent eviction notice?	_____	_____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Must heating/cooling be medically necessary?	_____	_____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please explain):	_____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____

Clients must have a crisis situation within the last three months; loss or reduction in income, through no fault of their own, or major medical incident within the last three months. Other losses of income may qualify the client for Crisis Assistance and eligibility is decided on a case-by-case basis.

→What constitutes a crisis? (Please describe)

All the above eligibility requirements constitute a crisis for the purposes of meeting the criteria for the Crisis Assistance component in the Tribal LIHEAP Program.

Additional extenuating circumstances may be designated a crisis (such as FMLA) to meet the “Other” eligibility requirement by the recommendation of the Financial Services Coordinator and concurrences from the Family Services Director and/or Tribal Member Services Division Director.

statutory
references

2605(c)(1)(A) **→**Do you have additional eligibility requirements for:
WEATHERIZATION (___ Yes x No)

(eligibility)

→Do you use: Yes No

Assets test? _____

Priority groups? (Please list) _____

→Are you using Department of Energy (DOE) Low
Income Weatherization Assistance Program
(LIWAP) rules to establish eligibility or to establish
priority eligibility for households with certain
characteristics? _____

→If Yes, are there exceptions?
Please list below. _____

statutory
references

2605(b)(3)
2605(c)(3)(A)

(outreach)

→ Please check the outreach activities that you conduct that are designed to assure that eligible households are made aware of all LIHEAP assistance available:

provide intake service through home visits or by telephone for the physically infirm (i.e. elderly or disabled).

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.

make mass mailing to past recipients of LIHEAP.

inform low income applicants of the availability of all types of LIHEAP assistance at application intake for other low-income programs.

execute interagency agreements with other low-income program offices to perform outreach to target groups.

other (Please specify): **Mass mailing to past LIHEAP recipients is conducted through a monthly newsletter, Poarch Creek News, that is sent to all Tribal Member households. These articles are also available on the Poarch Band of Creek Indians official website and social media sites.**

statutory
references

2605(b)(4)

➔ Please describe how you will assure that LIHEAP is coordinated with similar and related programs. The description provided applies to all components unless specifically noted.

(coordination)

The Family Services Department Community Services Program provides intake services for all “financial assistance” applications. Through this intake process, eligibility is determined for LIHEAP assistance and other services are coordinated with similar tribal programs.

The PBCI Family Services Department continues to coordinate with state agencies to avoid duplication of services. It is the standard practice for local governmental or community service offices to inquire if an applicant is a tribal member; and if so, to refer them back to the Tribe’s Family Services Department for services. The Family Services Department meets with community agencies throughout our service area in an effort to ensure no duplication of services is provided.

2605(b)(5)

2605(b)(2)

2605(b)(8A)

➔ The statute requires that there be no difference in the treatment of households eligible because of their income and those eligible because they receive benefits under TANF, Food Stamps, SSI, or certain means-tested veterans programs ("categorically eligible"). How do you ensure there is no difference when determining eligibility and benefit amounts? This applies to all components unless specifically noted below.

(benefit
levels)

LIHEAP articles or notices are posted on the Poarch Creek website and other media outlets and are published in the Poarch Creek News for all Tribal Members living within the Tribe’s six-county service area. The LIHEAP program notice to potential clients establishes an appointment schedule which identifies priority interview days for the elderly, TANF, Food Stamps, SSI and the means-tested veteran program. Eligibility is automatic for these types of households. Benefit amounts are based on the energy needs of the household up to the established threshold amount and as calculated by the Matrix chart. This provides equal opportunity and notice for participation in the Tribal LIHEAP Program.

statutory
references

HEATING COMPONENT

2605(b)(5) → Please check the variables you use to determine your benefit levels (check all that apply):

(determination
of benefits)

- 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)

2605(b)(5)
2605(c)(1)(B)

(benefit
levels)

→ Describe how you will assure that the highest benefits go to households with the lowest incomes and the highest energy costs or needs in relation to income, taking into account family size.

Please describe benefit levels or attach a copy of your payment matrix.

See Attachment A: LIHEAP Payment Matrix

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

Yes No If Yes, please describe.

The Family Services Department makes referrals on the behalf of clients to other programs, departments, or different funding sources to meet the needs of families. When funding is available, we conduct supplemental programs that distribute blankets, heaters, fans, and other energy related items to households. This may also be provided with any rollover amounts designated for additional LIHEAP services or eligible assistance.

statutory
references

2605(b)(5)
2605(c)(1)(B)

COOLING COMPONENT

➔ Please check the variables you use to determine your benefit levels (check all that apply):

(determination
of benefits)

- 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)

2605(b)(5)
2605(c)(1)(B)

➔ Describe how you will assure that the highest benefits will go to households with the lowest incomes and the highest energy costs or needs in relation to income, taking into account family size. Please describe benefit levels or attach a copy of your payment matrix.

(benefit
levels)

See Attachment A: LIHEAP Payment Matrix

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

Yes No If Yes, please describe.

The Family Services Department makes referrals on the behalf of clients to other programs, departments, or different funding sources to meet the needs of families. When funding is available, we conduct supplemental programs that distribute blankets, heaters, fans, and other energy related items to households. This may also be provided with any rollover amounts designated for additional LIHEAP services or eligible assistance.

statutory
references

2605(b)(5)
2605(c)(1)(B)

(determination
of benefits)

CRISIS COMPONENT

➔How do you handle crisis situations?

 x separate component other (please explain)

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

 x amount to resolve crisis, up to maximum

 other (please describe)

(benefit
levels)

➔Please indicate the maximum benefit for each type of crisis assistance offered.

heating \$ 400.00 maximum benefit

cooling \$ 400.00 maximum benefit

year-round \$ 400.00 maximum benefit

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

 x Yes No If Yes, please describe.

The Family Services Department makes referrals on the behalf of clients to other programs, departments, or different funding sources to meet the needs of families. When funding is available, we conduct supplemental programs that distribute blankets, heaters, fans, and other energy related items to households. This may also be provided with any rollover amounts designated for additional LIHEAP services or eligible assistance.

statutory
references

2605(b)(5)
2605(c)(1)
(B) & (D)

**WEATHERIZATION & OTHER ENERGY RELATED
HOME REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENTS**

→What LIHEAP weatherization services/materials do you provide?

None.

(Check all categories that apply.)

(types of
assistance)

- Weatherization needs assessments/audits.
- Caulking, insulation, storm windows, etc.
- Furnace/heating system modifications/repairs
- Furnace replacement
- Cooling efficiency mods/repairs/replacement
- Other (Please describe)

(benefit
levels)

→Do you have a maximum LIHEAP weatherization benefit/expenditure per household? Yes No

If Yes, what is the maximum amount? \$ _____

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

(types of
rules)

- Entirely under LIHEAP (not DOE) rules
- Entirely under DOE LIWAP rules
- Mostly under LIHEAP rules with the following DOE LIWAP rule(s) where LIHEAP and LIWAP rules differ (Check all that apply):

Weatherize buildings if at least 66% of units (50% in 2- & 4-unit buildings) are eligible units or will become eligible within 180 days

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

Other (Please describe)

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

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

Other (Please describe.)

2605(b)(6) The state or tribe administers LIHEAP through the following local agencies:

- (agency designation)
- county welfare offices
 - community action agencies (weatherization component only)
 - community action agencies (heating, cooling or crisis)
 - charitable organizations
 - not applicable (i.e. state energy office)
 - tribal office
 - other, describe:

→ Have you changed local administering agencies from last year?
 Yes No

If Yes, please describe how you selected them.

→ What components are affected by the change?

N/A

2605(c)(1)(E) → Please describe any additional steps (other than those described elsewhere in this plan) that will be taken to target assistance to households with high home energy burdens. **(This applies to all components. If all steps to target households with high home energy burdens are described elsewhere in the plan, no further information is required here.)**

(targeting of assistance)

LIHEAP articles or notices are published in the Poarch Creek News for all Tribal Members living within the Tribe's six-county service and are posted on the Poarch Creek website and other media outlets. This provides equal opportunity and notice for participation in the Tribal LIHEAP Program. Announcements are also posted throughout the tribal complex on bulletin boards, doors, and sent to other departmental staff to disseminate this information through other intake processes.

statutory
references

2605(b)(7)
(energy
suppliers)

→ Do you make payments directly to home energy suppliers?

Heating Yes No

Cooling Yes No

Crisis Yes No

If Yes, are there exceptions? Yes No

If Yes, please describe.

2605(b)(7)(A)

→ If you make payments directly to home energy suppliers, how do you notify the client of the amount of assistance paid? (Please describe)

Clients are notified of eligibility for services in person, by telephone, or by mail. All clients will receive an awards letter in person or mail. The awards letter describes the approval, eligibility amount, and that the letter can be used to notify the home energy supplier that assistance would be provided from the Tribal LIHEAP Program. Clients are awarded based upon eligibility, point system, and LIHEAP Payment Matrix. Payments are made directly to vendors/service providers for the amount that clients qualify for. Payments are made to provider for qualifying amount. This may include current billing as well as any pre-paid accounts. LIHEAP funds may not be used for reconnection fees if services have been discontinued.

2605(b)(7)
(B) & (C)

→ How do you make sure the home energy supplier performs what is required in this assurance? If vendor agreements are used, they may be attached. Indicate each component for which this description applies.

There are no formal vendor agreements. Local vendors are familiar with our services and accept the award letter from the Family Services Department and the Tribal Accounting purchase order system. When an applicant is approved for any type of LIHEAP service, a purchase order is completed and sent to the Tribal Accounting Department. A check is made payable to the vendor and is mailed to them or taken to them by a staff person within the Tribal Accounting Department. An invoice is necessary to verify services rendered or delivery of services before payment is made from LIHEAP funds.

statutory
references

2605(b)(8)(B) → Is there any difference in the way owners and renters are treated? If Yes, please describe.

(owners
and
renters)

HEATING ASSISTANCE

_____ Yes No

COOLING ASSISTANCE

_____ Yes No

CRISIS ASSISTANCE

_____ Yes No

WEATHERIZATION

_____ Yes _____ No

statutory
references

2605(b)(10)

➔How do you ensure good fiscal accounting and tracking of LIHEAP funds? (Please describe. Include a description of how you monitor fiscal activities.)

(program,

The Tribe utilizes an accounting software and funds are audited each year through the accounting departments. These are consistently followed to ensure program compliance through annual audits.

fiscal
monitoring,
and audit)

➔How do you monitor program activities? (Please be sure to include a description of how you monitor eligibility and benefit determination.)

➔How is your LIHEAP program audited?

Under the Single Audit Act? Yes No

If not, please describe:

For States and Territories:

➔Is there an annual audit of local administering agencies? Yes No

If not, please explain.

statutory
references

2605(b)(12)

➔How did you get timely and meaningful public participation in the development of the plan? (Please describe.)

(timely and
meaningful
public

partici-
pation)

See OLDC

2605(a)(2)

➔Did you conduct public hearings on the proposed use and distribution of your LIHEAP funds? When and where?

 Yes No

(Not required for Tribes and tribal organizations)

(public
hearings)

statutory
references

2605(b)(13)

→ Describe your fair hearing procedures for households whose applications are denied or not acted on in a timely manner. When are applicants informed of these rights?

(fair
hearings)

There is a statement on the intake form informing the applicant of their right to request a Fair Hearing. During the initial application process, the client must sign indicating they have reviewed this information or have had this information read to them.

→ Denials

The request for a Fair Hearings must be made in writing or verbally to the Family Services Department within (30) of the date of the application. The Family Services Director will complete an administrative review with a written response provided within (10) working days. If the client is still not satisfied with the results of the administrative review outcome, they can then appeal the decision to the Family Services Director, then to the Tribal Member Services Division Director, to the Tribal Chief of Staff.

→ Applications Not Acted On In a Timely Manner

The Family Services Director will complete an administrative review of any application not acted on in a timely manner. The application will be assessed to determine if the client is eligible to receive LIHEAP funds and the funds will be disbursed accordingly. The client will receive written notice of the status of their case on the Family Service's Awards Letter and an accompanying letter of explanation from the Family Services Director. If additional fees have accumulated on the client's account due to an error within the Family Services Department, tribal funds will be utilized to cover these fees.

statutory
references

2605(b)(15)

For States and Puerto Rico only (not applicable to Tribes and tribal organizations, or to territories whose annual regular LIHEAP allotments are \$200,000 or less):

➔ Does the State agency that administers the following LIHEAP component also administer the State's welfare program?

(alternate
outreach
and intake)

HEATING ASSISTANCE

Yes No

If Yes, describe alternate process for outreach and intake:

The outreach process is the same. The Family Services Department conducts the intake process for the Heating Assistance (WLIHEAP) on selected dates and according to the identified priority schedule for seniors, disabled persons, TANF and Food Stamp recipients, and children under five. The scheduled time-frame enables the Department to complete the intake process for a large number of participants in a timely and efficient manner.

COOLING ASSISTANCE

Yes No

If Yes, describe alternate process for outreach and intake:

The outreach process is the same. The Family Services Department provides the opportunity for clients that received WLIHEAP, to verify that information remains the same as it was during the initial interview for Heating Assistance. If the information remains the same, the clients will not have to have another interview and their applications will then be processed for Cooling Assistance (SLIHEAP). If the client did not receive Heating Assistance, an appointment will be made for them to complete the interview process as well as for those clients who had a change in information since they received Heating Assistance.

CRISIS ASSISTANCE

Yes No

If Yes, describe alternate process for outreach and intake:

The outreach process is the same. Crisis Assistance is available on an as-needed basis throughout the year. Clients applying for Crisis Assistance will be given an appointment to complete the interview process. Eligibility is determined according to the Crisis Assistance plan listed in this grant application.

GRANTEE Poarch Band of Creek Indians

FFY 2021

statutory
references

2605(b)(16)

➔ Do 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? (This assurance refers to activities such as needs assessments, counseling, and assistance with energy vendors.)

Yes No

If Yes, please describe these activities.

If Yes, how do you ensure that you don't use more than 5% (statutory ceiling) of your LIHEAP funds for these activities?

statutory
references

2607A

(leveraging)

→ Please describe leveraging activities planned for the fiscal year. **(This entry is optional.)*** Complete this entry if you plan to apply for LIHEAP leveraging incentive funds and to include in your leveraging report resources/benefits provided to low income households this fiscal year under criterion (iii) in 45 CFR 96.87(d)(2). Provide the following information for each:

- (1) Identify and described each resource/benefit;
- (2) Identify the source(s) of each resource; and
- (3) Describe the integration/coordination of each resource/benefit with the LIHEAP program, consistent with 1 or more of conditions A-H in 45 CFR 96.87(d)(2)(iii).

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

statutory
references

2605(b)

➔ Please describe performance goals and measures planned for the fiscal year. **(This entry is optional.)**

(performance)
goals and
measures)

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 state 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.