



## Energy & Housing Services Department Memorandum

**To:** Interested Parties

**From:** Kathy Kinch, Manager of HEAP and Financial Reporting

**Date:** May 24, 2018

**Subject:** Maine State Housing Authority's State Plan Application for the 2018-2019 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

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MaineHousing will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, June 19, 2018 to receive comments on the proposed 2018-2019 LIHEAP State Plan Application.

As required by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the application must address how MaineHousing will:

1. Administer fuel assistance, emergency fuel assistance, weatherization, and heating system repairs/replacements for low income households in the State of Maine;
2. Utilize the funds and carry out the 16 assurances specified in the LIHEAP statute and the other program-specific information required in Section 2605(c) of the statute; and
3. Ensure that effective preventive controls, fraud detection, monitoring, and prosecution systems exist at all levels of the program's administration to prevent improper payments, fraud, waste or abuse.

A copy of the proposed LIHEAP State Plan Application is available on MaineHousing's website at <http://www.mainehousing.org/quicklinks/highlights/heap-public-hearings> or by calling 207-626-4600 or 1-800-452-4668 (Voice) or Maine Relay 711 or by writing to MaineHousing, Energy & Housing Services, 353 Water Street, Augusta, Maine 04330-4633.

### **Public Hearing and Comment Period**

A public is scheduled for Tuesday, June 19, 2018, immediately following the public hearing for the Home Energy Assistance Program Rule changes that is scheduled to start at 9:30 am. The hearing will be held in the Board Room, located on the 4th floor of the MaineHousing offices located at 353 Water Street in Augusta, Maine. Maine State Housing Authority's office and the hearing room are accessible to persons with disabilities and, upon sufficient notice, appropriate communications auxiliary aids and services will be provided to persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency.

Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 pm on Monday, July 2, 2018. Comments should be submitted to [LIHEAP@mainehousing.org](mailto:LIHEAP@mainehousing.org) or mailed to Kathy Kinch, Manager of HEAP and Financial Reporting, at 353 Water Street, Augusta, Maine 04330-4633.

The changes to the LIHEAP State Plan Application are being proposed to ensure consistency with the proposed Chapter 24 Home Energy Assistance Program Rule and continued compliance with the 16 Assurances, as required by HHS. The proposed changes to the Rule have been outlined and distributed to interested parties in a separate memorandum entitled “HEAP Rule Interested Parties Memo May 2018”.

The following additional proposed changes impact only the LIHEAP State Plan Application.

***Section 5: Weatherization Assistance – Eligibility, 2605(c)(1)(A), 2605(b)(2) – Assurance 2***

MaineHousing proposes to change the eligibility threshold for income to 200% of federal poverty, which is the Department of Energy’s income limit for weatherization services.

***Section 10: Program, Fiscal Monitoring, and Audit, 2605(b)(10)***

MaineHousing proposes adding language to clarify its practices for managing (vendor) benefit returns.