

Program: HEAP Fuel Assistance	MHPN # 2023-HEAP-016
Action: Clarification on reported HEAP cuts	Effective Date: 09/27/2023
Issued by: MaineHousing, Energy and Housing Services	Expired Date:

This MaineHousing Notice is being issued to provide clarification in regards to reports of HEAP funding cuts.

1. Clarification on reported HEAP funding cuts

News outlets have picked up on an article that was published by the AP on September 27, 2023. This article was primarily relating to the increase in LIAP eligibility but the following statement was included about HEAP Funding:

“The increase in assistance is arriving just as federal Low Income Heating Assistance Program funding could face cuts as a potential government shutdown looms. The Biden administration said last week that Republican spending cut proposals **could reduce the program’s funding by \$26 million in Maine** and hundreds of millions more around the country.”

The reduction that they are referencing is a reduction to the proposed budget increase for Program Year 2024. The proposed increase was asking HEAP to be funded at \$6 billion rather than \$4.1 billion, the typical annual funding amount. We do expect that the approved funding for the LIHEAP grant will be \$4.1 billion which will provide Maine with roughly \$41 million dollars.

When planning for the 2024 Program Year, we did not take into consideration the proposed increase amount and a cut to the proposed budget increase will not have an impact on our program.

If you are receiving an increase in calls inquiring about the cuts, please let me know and we can ask our Director of Communications to provide a statement that can be issued.

2. Notice Contact

Genevieve Soucy, *Director of Energy and Housing Services* ▪ (207) 626-4600 ▪ gsoucy@mainehousing.org

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*Lauren Bustard, Maine State Housing Authority, 26 Edison Drive, Augusta, Maine 04330,
Telephone Number 1-800-452-4668 (voice in state only), (207) 626-4600 (voice) or Maine Relay 711.*

