
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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Counting for Dollars

16 Largest Federal Assistance Programs that Distribute Funds on Basis of Decennial
Census-derived Statistics

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

A [report](#) of the Counting for Dollars Project identifies the 16 largest federal financial assistance programs that use Decennial Census-derived data to distribute funds to states and local areas. This fact sheet describes the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the nature of its reliance on Census-derived data.

Objective: Assist low-income households to meet the costs of home energy.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) #: [93.568](#)

Applicant eligibility: States

Type of assistance: Formula grants. States make payments directly to an eligible low-income household or, on behalf of such household, to an energy supplier.

Allocation formulas: See Congressional Research Service, [“The LIHEAP Formula.”](#) 2017. Census-derived data include fuel use in low-income households.

Household eligibility: Households with incomes up to 150 percent of the Poverty Guidelines or, if greater, 60 percent of the State Median Income. States may adopt lower income limits.

Household benefits: States are allowed flexibility in determining payment levels and types of payments, including unrestricted cash payments, payments to vendors on behalf of eligible households, or energy vouchers.

Primary Census-derived data sources: American Community Survey (Census) for fuel use in low-income households. Poverty Guidelines (HHS) and State Median Income (HHS) for household eligibility.

Relation to accuracy of state Decennial Census count: Positive

A state Decennial Census undercount of low-income households would increase the likelihood of an underestimate of total fuel use in these households, which in turn could result in a smaller LIHEAP grant.

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
Obligations – U.S. and States, FY2015**

United States	\$3,370,228,288		
Alabama	\$44,434,606	Montana	\$23,469,425
Alaska	\$17,504,155	Nebraska	\$29,374,312
Arizona	\$22,443,247	Nevada	\$10,144,542
Arkansas	\$26,805,488	New Hampshire	\$25,783,997
California	\$174,269,816	New Jersey	\$126,753,524
Colorado	\$48,958,657	New Mexico	\$17,117,361
Connecticut	\$85,854,220	New York	\$381,987,692
Delaware	\$12,559,189	North Carolina	\$86,585,698
District of Columbia	\$10,392,525	North Dakota	\$25,735,063
Florida	\$70,658,159	Ohio	\$148,307,625
Georgia	\$55,874,930	Oklahoma	\$36,364,266
Hawaii	\$5,626,917	Oregon	\$35,985,109
Idaho	\$20,009,119	Pennsylvania	\$206,649,757
Illinois	\$167,645,639	Rhode Island	\$27,391,087
Indiana	\$75,898,561	South Carolina	\$35,471,080
Iowa	\$53,795,058	South Dakota	\$20,466,128
Kansas	\$30,771,600	Tennessee	\$55,220,609
Kentucky	\$44,955,324	Texas	\$117,570,163
Louisiana	\$38,427,526	Utah	\$23,603,084
Maine	\$39,239,316	Vermont	\$18,990,787
Maryland	\$68,923,088	Virginia	\$81,516,532
Massachusetts	\$146,508,807	Washington	\$59,190,510
Michigan	\$162,070,769	West Virginia	\$24,591,426
Minnesota	\$114,669,262	Wisconsin	\$103,218,802
Mississippi	\$27,028,082	Wyoming	\$9,544,085
Missouri	\$73,871,564		

Source: USASpending.gov

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