



## Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)



Iowa Utilities Commission

# Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

- LIHEAP is a federally funded program designed to help qualified low income families in Iowa by providing a one-time payment to their heating utility. Other program components include crisis funding to assist in avoiding disconnection and weatherization funding.
- As a federally funded initiative, the program is managed by the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and delivered through a decentralized network of local, nonprofit community action agencies (CAAs).
- Beyond LIHEAP, under Iowa law, utilities are also required to operate a fund that allows its customers to voluntarily contribute money for deposit in a low-income heating assistance fund. Although these fund programs go by different names (Project Share, I CARE, etc.), they all assist low-income Iowans with paying energy bills and weatherization costs for their homes.

# Iowa

## LIHEAP FY2024 State Profile

Total Funding Available

**\$61,211,978**

Total Households Served

**83,360**

Income Eligibility  
Requirements

**\$60,000**

for a 4-person household

% of State Income-Eligible  
Population Served

**26%**

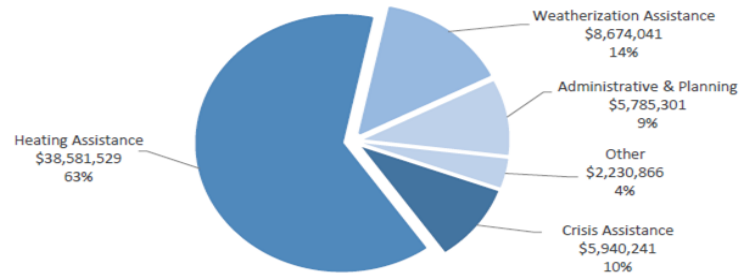
State Income-Eligible  
Population

**314,882**

Annual Funds, 2020-2024  
(\$ millions)



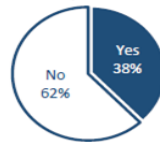
### Uses of Funds



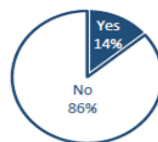
The Other category consists of:  
Carryover to FY2025 (\$1,930,811)  
Assurance 16 Activities (\$300,055)

### Vulnerable Recipient Households

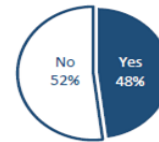
Households with  
Elderly Member



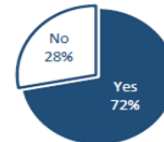
Households with  
Young Child



Households with  
Disabled Member



Households with Any  
Vulnerable Member



### Types of Assistance

**Heating Assistance** served 82,693 households with reported average benefits of \$466.

**Year-Round Crisis Assistance** served 12,699 households with reported average benefits of \$315.

**Weatherization Assistance** served 977 households with a calculated average benefit of \$8,878.

Data are current as of May 30, 2025.  
For more information, see <https://liheappm.act.hhs.gov/>

# LIHEAP in Iowa

## Key Program Dates



### August

HHS sends eligibility letters to qualifying families.

### October 1

Early applications open for households with elderly (60+) or disabled residents.



### November 1 to April 1

Winter Moratorium in effect. Utilities cannot disconnect heating service for LIHEAP-qualified households.



### November 1 to April 30

General application period for all other households.

## Eligibility



Determined primarily by household income: 200% of the federal poverty level.

## Application Process



Customer is responsible for providing notification of the application to the utility. Utility gives 30 days for approval to be received before taking any disconnection action, if warranted.



Applications can be submitted online, via postal mail, or in person at the CAA.



There are a number of documentation requirements, including proof of SSN, income, and utility account(s).

## Payment Process



CAA notifies the utility of approval and pledges payment.



# LIHEAP in Iowa

## Funding Year 2025

- Total funding: \$52.7M
- Last year the State moved to a new system for processing applications and has improved its funding timing and coordination for this upcoming moratorium season.

## Funding Year 2026

- Federal funding allocations for this year are still under review. Both the Senate and the House have presented bills that would increase total funding
- IUC staff is actively working with Iowa HHS staff to monitor funding updates and plans to provide increased coordination, if needed, to ensure service for at-risk Iowans

## IUC Customer Service Inquiries

- Application Inquiries
- Moratorium & Disconnection Inquiries
- Funding/Payment Inquiries

