

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Program Overview for Tribal Partners

Program Year 2027 · October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027

This is a consultation for the LIHEAP program requesting tribal approval to proceed with the FFY27 application. Below you will find a description of the program, a breakdown of the anticipated budget, program/application requirements, and the next steps we are requesting from you to proceed.

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Date: 06/12/2026

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1. Abstract

Agency: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

Program: Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Assistance Listing: 93.568

Funding Type: Formula Block Grant (Tribal Allotment)

Project Duration: October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027 (one year)

Application Due: September 1, 2026

Public comment period: July 2026

SPIPA Project Lead: Debbie Gardipee-Reyes

Program Goal

LIHEAP helps eligible low-income households reduce home heating and cooling costs, stay energy self-sufficient, and avoid utility shutoffs or unsafe conditions. The program prioritizes vulnerable households, including elders, families with young children, and people with disabilities.

Project Summary

SPIPA provides year-round energy assistance to eligible low-income households across five Tribal communities — Chehalis, Nisqually, Shoalwater Bay, Skokomish, and Squaxin Island — and the surrounding counties of Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston. Services include heating and cooling assistance and crisis support to prevent shutoffs or unsafe living conditions. Outreach runs through flyers, newspaper notices, social media, direct mail, intake with other low-income programs, and community events.

SPIPA will continue running the program with no major changes expected this year. SPIPA administers LIHEAP centrally: funds are not allocated by Tribe. Assistance is provided case-by-case based on each household's eligibility and need, which keeps access equitable across the consortium. Payments are usually made directly to utility vendors on behalf of approved households.

2. Budget

Planning budget for Program Year 2027. SPIPA administers all funds; assistance is distributed to eligible households based on individual eligibility and need, not by Tribal allocation.

LIHEAP is a formula-based block grant; the amounts shown are planning figures and are not guaranteed award amounts.

| Expenditures | Budget |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Client Utility Payments | \$188,433.30 |
| Client Utility – Crisis | \$18,619.00 |
| Training Costs & Travel | \$13,100.00 |
| Consumable Supplies | \$3,500.00 |
| Program Supplies | \$3,000.00 |
| Project Outreach | \$3,000.00 |
| Building / Office Maintenance | \$1,250.00 |
| Communications | \$1,000.00 |
| Local Travel | \$500.00 |
| Total direct costs | \$232,402.30 |
| Indirect Costs (45 CFR 96.88(b) cap) | \$28,044.70 |
| Total award costs | \$260,447.00 |

Note on indirect/administrative costs

Under 45 CFR 96.88(b), Tribal LIHEAP administrative costs are capped. For allotments over \$20,000, the allowance is up to 20% of the first \$20,000 (\$4,000) plus 10% of the amount above \$20,000.

3. Program Requirements

- **Eligibility** — low-income households in the service area, with priority for elders, families with young children, and people with disabilities. SPIPA confirms the current income limits.
- **Allowable assistance** — heating and cooling help and crisis assistance to prevent shutoffs or unsafe conditions. Payments usually go directly to utility vendors.
- **Reporting and recordkeeping** — SPIPA handles federal reporting. Because SPIPA administers the program centrally, participating Tribes do not carry separate federal LIHEAP reporting.

4. Application Requirements

- LIHEAP budget worksheet.
- SF-424 application forms.
- SPIPA LIHEAP Model plan.
- Submission method: by email.
- **Public comment period: July 2026.**
- Application due: September 1, 2026.

Tribal Council Resolution

A Tribal Council Resolution is not a required component of the LIHEAP application. However, under its own consultation and resolution policy, SPIPA still requests one from each participating Tribe. The resolution should cover:

- Action requested — authorize the Tribe’s participation in SPIPA’s LIHEAP application and program.
- Funding amount and project period — Program Year 2027 (Oct 1, 2026 – Sep 30, 2027); about \$260,447 consortium-wide, administered by SPIPA and not allocated by Tribe.
- Match or ongoing obligations — none. LIHEAP requires no match.
- Authorized official designated to sign.
- Please return Tribal Resolutions before Friday, Jul 31, 2026.

Memorandum of Agreement

As funds do not pass through SPIPA to the Tribes, an MOA is not required for this application.

5. Summary Checklist — Next Steps for Tribal Partners

| Request for Tribe: | Due by |
|--|-------------------|
| Confirm participation — reply to SPIPA with approval to proceed and/or if your Tribe is taking part. | ASAP |
| Tribal Council Resolution signed and returned to SPIPA. | 07/31/2026 |