

Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)

- Grants and loans from HUD Community Development Block Grant Funds made to individuals to rehabilitate their private residence
- All WIA payments, except those considered wages for on-the-job training.
- **Economic Stimulus Tax Rebate for 2007**

2. Assistance Group

The Assistance Group (AG) consists of any individual or group of individuals who are living together as one economic unit or who are sharing expenses and for whom residential home heating is customarily purchased in common or for whom home heating is included in a rent or mortgage payment as a specified amount.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to list all individuals who are living in the home, regardless of whether or not they are family members or whether or not they share the cost of home heating. For the purpose of LIEAP eligibility, all household members are considered one AG.

When the AG includes a person(s) who has already received a LIEAP payment, he is not included in the AG and his income is not counted in determining eligibility.

EXAMPLE: An employed woman and her two children are included in her mother's AG. The mother applies for and is approved for a LIEAP payment for an AG of 4. Her daughter and grandchildren then move out of her home to live with the children's father. The father applies for LIEAP and reports an increase in AG size and income. His LIEAP application is approved for an AG of 1 and only his income is counted.

When an AG includes an illegal alien, that person's income must be counted even though he cannot be included in the LIEAP AG.

3. Vulnerability To The Cost Of Home Heating

In order to qualify for a LIEAP payment, an AG must be determined vulnerable or partially vulnerable to the cost of home heating.

a. Vulnerable AGs

Vulnerable AGs are those which must pay the heating cost for the home in which they reside. This cost must be paid directly to a provider as a separate payment or as a specified portion of a rent or mortgage payment. The amount specified as a heating cost must be stated on a rent receipt, lease, or other documentation.

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AGs may also be considered vulnerable if there has been a documented increase in a rent or mortgage payment due to increased fuel costs. The increase does not have to be permanent if the only reason for the increase is winter heating.

Individuals who are temporarily away from home for medical, educational, or employment purposes, and who still must pay a heating cost for the dwelling, are considered vulnerable. This includes nursing home residents who are still maintaining a home and have a heating cost.

Vulnerability also exists when the AG must pay at least a part of the cost of home heating, whether they pay just part of the cost each month or alternate payments with a third party. The AG is also partially vulnerable when a surcharge for excessive usage is already added or can reasonably be anticipated being added to the rent amount.

b. **Invulnerable AGs**

Invulnerability means the AG has no home heating costs or is not responsible for payment of the heating cost. Individuals who live in state institutions, hospitals and certain group living facilities, such as halfway houses and domestic violence centers, and those whose home heating costs are paid by a third party are considered invulnerable.

c. **Terminated Service**

AGs in dwellings where home heating service has been terminated and the account has been closed prior to the date of application are considered vulnerable if the home heating supplier agrees to restore service upon the approval of LIEAP or in combination with other payment(s).

NOTE: The Worker must not obligate a payment until all other needed payments have been obtained. Any payment obligated to a vendor, whether verbal or in writing, must be honored if the vendor restores service and it is later determined that other payments were never received.

d. **Portable Heaters**

Portable heating devices such as, but not limited to, electric and kerosene space heaters, are not considered primary sources of