

*Instructions for the LIHEAP Household Report Long Form FY 2020*  
 Division of Energy Assistance/OCS/ACF  
 November 2020

## **The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995**

This information collection (OMB Control No. 0970-0060; Expiration Date: 02/28/2022) is conducted in accordance with the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) statute (Public Law 97-35, as amended), and 45 CFR 96.82. Information received from this collection provides data to the Administration and Congress in its oversight of grantees' performance in administering the LIHEAP program.

Public reporting burden for this information collection (*LIHEAP Household Report for Federal Fiscal Year 2020 –LONG FORM*), is estimated to be an average burden of 43 hours per respondent. The estimates include the time for reviewing instructions, and gathering, editing, maintaining, and reporting the data.

The responses to this information collection are required in order to obtain LIHEAP funding data in accordance with Section 2605(c)(1)(G) of the LIHEAP statute [42 U.S.C. § 8624(c)(1)(G)]. This information collection is required of the 50 States, District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico that are applying for FY 2021 funds. The remaining territories also are required to complete the *LIHEAP Household Report Long Form* for FY 2020.

This information is not considered confidential; therefore, no additional safeguards are considered necessary beyond that customarily applied to routine government information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

LIHEAP data is submitted through the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF's) Online Data Collection (OLDC) system, a component of Grants Solutions. After signing on to OLDC, select the *LIHEAP Household Report Long Form for FY 2020*.

When completing the Report in OLDC, changes and updates will only be recorded when "Save" is clicked. Therefore, it is important to regularly click "Save" to retain newly recorded information and prevent the loss of information. Instructions for completing certain items in the Report are built into the Report itself through hyperlinks. The complete set of instructions is available in this document. Also, OLDC has online resources such as user guides, quick sheets, program specific documentation, and frequently asked questions.

Final LIHEAP household data for FY 2020 will be reviewed in OLDC for consistency with each state's *LIHEAP Model Plan for FY 2020* and later with the data reported in each state's *LIHEAP Performance Data Form for FY 2020*.

The reporting instructions are organized into the following sections and subsections:

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## **Introduction**

Section 309 of the Human Services Amendments of 1994, Public Law 103-252, amended section 2605(c)(1)(G) of the LIHEAP statute requires grantees, as part of their annual LIHEAP grant application, to report certain data on households which apply for LIHEAP assistance and on households which receive LIHEAP assistance in the most recent Federal Fiscal Year.

**November 30, 2020** is the deadline for all grantees to submit their preliminary LIHEAP Household Report for FY 2020 as part of their LIHEAP state plans for FY 2021. (This date may have been extended for tribal grantees if the state in which the tribe is located agrees to a later date. The date may be extended for state or territorial grantees if HHS agrees to a later date.). However, any requests for an extension needed to be made before that date.

LIHEAP grant applications will not be considered complete without submission of the data in the *LIHEAP Household Report* in OLDC, including the identifying information.

***Estimated data is due to ACF by November 30, 2020.*** Final LIHEAP household data for FY 2020 must be submitted to OCS through ACF's OLDC system by Thursday, December 31, 2020 in preparation for the corresponding Report to Congress.

### ***New Form Changes for FY 2020 Reporting***

On March 27, 2020, the President signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (Public Law 116-136). As part of the CARES Act, Congress appropriated supplemental funds for LIHEAP.

On May 8, 2020, HHS awarded the supplemental CARES Act funds to grantees and published a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) announcing the release of these funds. The DCL notified grantees that "LIHEAP grantees must track, account for, and report on, the LIHEAP CARES Act supplemental funding separate from the rest of their FY 2020 funding. There will be additional reporting requirements specific to this supplemental funding."

**To separately identify the impact of supplemental federal LIHEAP funding, HHS expanded the LIHEAP Household Report - Long Form for FY 2020. For each item in the report, the revised form now includes three lines.**

- The first line is for grantees to report information for all applicable households *regardless of funding source*. This is consistent with what grantees were required to report in the past. Grantees should report the total count of households, counting each household once if it received that type of assistance during FY 2020.
- The second line is for grantees to report information for all applicable households that were assisted with CARES Act supplemental LIHEAP funding. Include households that received a benefit that was fully or partially funded with CARES Act funds. Exclude households that did not receive a benefit that was fully or partially funded by CARES Act funds.
- The third line is for grantees to report information for all applicable households that were assisted with other federal supplemental LIHEAP funding (not including CARES Act funding), if any. Include households that received a benefit that was fully or partially funded with other Federal Supplemental LIHEAP funding (not including CARES Act funding). Exclude households that did not receive a benefit that was fully or partially funded by other Federal Supplemental LIHEAP funding (not including CARES Act funding).

To report this information, grantees will need to identify which funding sources were used to provide each household with each type of LIHEAP assistance during FY 2020.

During FY 2020, grantees received regular LIHEAP funding and CARES Act supplemental LIHEAP funding, but did not receive other federal supplemental LIHEAP funding. **Therefore, lines labelled as reserved for other supplemental funding are locked from editing.**

As in the past, grantees are required to report on the *LIHEAP Household Report* "unduplicated counts" of LIHEAP households for each line in the report. Households that received multiple types of assistance should be included in the count of households for each relevant assistance type. For example, if the same household received both Heating Assistance and Cooling Assistance, it should be included in the count of households that received Heating Assistance and the count of households that received Cooling Assistance. For households that received funds from multiple funding categories for a specific type of assistance, the household should be included each relevant line as described above.

### ***Federal LIHEAP Funds***

Households could be assisted in FY 2020 with the following Federal LIHEAP funds:

- FY 2020 LIHEAP regular block grant funds,
- FY 2019 LIHEAP block grant funds reallocated to FY 2020,

- Regular LIHEAP funds carried over from FY 2019 for obligation during FY 2020,
- Regular LIHEAP funds obligated in FY 2019 that were expended in FY 2020
- Oil overcharge (Petroleum Violation Escrow) funds, if any, designated for LIHEAP.
- CARES Act supplemental LIHEAP funding
- Other federal supplemental LIHEAP funding (not including CARES Act funding)

The purpose of the *LIHEAP Household Report* is to report on the number of households assisted with **all** available federal LIHEAP funds during FY 2020, including those LIHEAP funds obligated in FY 2019, but not expended until FY 2020.

LIHEAP funding includes **all federal funds** allocated to LIHEAP. **To separately identify the impact of supplemental federal LIHEAP funding, HHS expanded the LIHEAP Household Report - Long Form for FY 2020. For each item in the report, the revised form now includes three lines.**

- The first line is for grantees to report information for all applicable households regardless of funding source. This is consistent with what grantees were required to report in the past. Grantees should report the total count of households, counting each household once if it received that type of assistance during FY 2020.
- The second line is for grantees to report information for all applicable households that were assisted with CARES Act supplemental LIHEAP funding. Include households that received a benefit that was fully or partially funded with CARES Act funds. Exclude households that did not receive a benefit that was fully or partially funded by CARES Act funds.
- The third line is for grantees to report information for all applicable households that were assisted with other Federal Supplemental LIHEAP funding (not including CARES Act funding), if any. Include households that received a benefit that was fully or partially funded with other Federal Supplemental LIHEAP funding (not including CARES Act funding). Exclude households that did not receive a benefit that was fully or partially funded by other Federal Supplemental LIHEAP funding (not including CARES Act funding).

During FY 2020, grantees received regular LIHEAP funding and CARES Act supplemental LIHEAP Funding, but did not receive other supplemental federal funding. **Therefore, lines labelled as reserved for other supplemental funding are locked from editing.**

### ***Basic Types of LIHEAP Assistance***

LIHEAP grantees have the flexibility to choose which types of LIHEAP assistance best meet the needs of their low income households. Federal LIHEAP funds are used to provide the following basic types of assistance to households:

- heating assistance,
- cooling assistance,
- year-round crisis assistance,
- winter crisis assistance,
- summer crisis assistance, and

- weatherization assistance.

### ***Other Types of LIHEAP Assistance***

There are states which provide households with “other LIHEAP assistance,” as described in a state's LIHEAP Plan for FY 2020. For the most part, this would include households receiving “other crisis assistance,” such as emergency furnace or air conditioner repairs and replacements. Also, this would include “nominal payments” made to households, e.g., Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households that were provided a relatively small LIHEAP payment to increase the amount of SNAP benefits that they receive.

Nominal benefits apply to those LIHEAP recipient households that received benefits as part of a partnership with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Count only those SNAP households that received a nominal LIHEAP benefit payment that deviates from the state’s regular payment matrix because the household has a minimal energy burden. In other words, only states that have a separate LIHEAP payment amount for SNAP recipient households need to report those households as nominal payment households. Report the count of SNAP households that received a reduced LIHEAP benefit in line 17 in Section I. Additionally, please include a note in the “Notes” section that provides a brief description of the nominal benefit program, and indicates the amount of the nominal benefit per SNAP household.

The number of such households will be included in a footnote for the relevant states in the annual LIHEAP Report to Congress.

Other types of small benefit amounts that are part of the state’s LIHEAP payment matrix or targeting other populations should **not** be included in the count of nominal payment households.

### ***Data Sections of the LIHEAP Household Report***

The data portions of the *LIHEAP Household Report* include Sections I–VI, as noted below. Within each section, rows represent the type of LIHEAP assistance provided by the grantee – consistent with the grantee’s state plan.

<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>
I	Number of assisted households
II	Number of assisted households by poverty interval
III	Number of assisted households by vulnerable population
IV	Number of applicant household
V	Number of applicant households by poverty interval
VI	Number of assisted households by young child age category (Optional)

Sections I-III are to be completed for assisted household data. Sections IV and V are to be completed for applicant household data. Section VI is optional.

### ***Concept of Unduplicated Household Counts***

As in the past, grantees are required to report on the *LIHEAP Household Report* “unduplicated counts” of LIHEAP applicant and assisted households for each type of LIHEAP assistance provided. The reporting instructions on unduplicated household counts and poverty data are the same for assisted and applicant households.

The concept of unduplicated counts means that an item, such as a household, is counted only once for a specific data variable. However, unduplicated counting becomes complex when there are multiple data variables. Such counting requires the use of computerized data systems and tracking of households

across a state's entire LIHEAP program, including households receiving weatherization through LIHEAP funds. Unduplicated household data must be reported separately for EACH type of LIHEAP assistance and for ANY type of LIHEAP assistance, as described in "Unduplicated Household Counts" under Section II.

Report households that received a LIHEAP basic benefit for EACH and ANY type of LIHEAP assistance in FY 2020. Unduplicated data also must include households that receive any "other" type of LIHEAP assistance, as explained below.

## **General Requirements**

Understanding of the reporting instructions will minimize our need to contact states for clarification or correction of reported data, saving both our agencies time and effort. This also will enhance our timeliness in compiling, editing, and reporting the data. If possible, we want to avoid having to note in the *LIHEAP Report to Congress* that a state's data are inaccurate, estimated, unavailable, or untimely.

### ***Grantee Information***

Please include in your *LIHEAP Household Report* the name, email address, and telephone number of the person to be contacted if we need to follow up with your state about its *LIHEAP Household Report*. The Report will be considered incomplete and not accepted in ACF's Online Data Collection (OLDC) system, which is now part of ACF's Grants Solutions, unless this information is included.

### ***Reporting Period***

Household data are for the reporting period for FY 2020 (October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020). Grantees may operate their programs on a different program year (e.g., starting January 1 or July 1). However, complete household data still need to be reported for the reporting period of FY 2020.

### ***Definition of Household***

The unit for LIHEAP counting is the household; not the head of household or persons in the households. LIHEAP household counts need to be consistent with Section 2603(5) of the LIHEAP statute that defines the term "household" as "any individual or group of individuals who are living together as one economic unit for whom residential energy is customarily purchased in common or who make undesignated payments for energy in the form of rent."

Given the above definition, a homeowner, a renter whose home energy costs are not included in its rent, and a renter whose home energy costs are included in its rent are counted as separate households. Also, a boarder who rents from a homeowner an apartment or living space with its own heating or cooling system is counted as a separate household. The counting of households becomes complicated if a household splits into two households over the Federal Fiscal Year. This is a critical point when reporting an unduplicated number of households.

### ***Estimated vs. Actual Household Counts***

The **Long Form** includes the general question, "Do the data below include estimated figures? Select one YES or NO." If actual data are not available, then be sure to indicate which data elements are estimated using the check boxes within Column A in Sections I and V. Include estimates for poverty level and vulnerable households to ensure completeness. **When actual data are reported later in a revised report, please uncheck the boxes for estimated data.**

### ***State Calculated Total Counts vs. OLDC Calculated Total Counts of Number of Households***

The total number of calculated households should equal the number of assisted or applicant households indicated in the grantee's records. If not, check the data entries and/or provide a note as to why the totals

do not match each other.

### ***Households Receiving “Other LIHEAP Assistance”***

Counting and reporting on the number of households receiving “other LIHEAP assistance” are needed to credit states for their efforts in assisting such households (consistent with states’ LIHEAP Plans for FY 2020), and to provide an accurate accounting of the program’s entire caseload.

Households receiving other LIHEAP assistance that is distinct from the basic types of LIHEAP assistance (heating assistance, cooling assistance, year round crisis assistance, winter crisis assistance, summer crisis assistance, and weatherization assistance) are to be counted and reported as follows:

- If the other LIHEAP assistance is additional emergency crisis assistance, those households should be reported as follows:
  - If the other LIHEAP assistance is an emergency equipment repair or replacement program, report these households in the lines 7j, 7k, and 7l “Emergency Furnace Repair and Replacement”. Include a note at the end of the Report that indicates the nature of the assistance and how many of these households are included in the regular crisis assistance categories (year round, winter, or summer crisis assistance).
  - If the other LIHEAP assistance is emergency crisis assistance that is distinct from the year round crisis assistance, winter crisis assistance, summer crisis assistance, or emergency equipment repair or replacement assistance, report these households in one of the additional crisis assistance lines provided in the report (lines 7m through 7r). Indicate the name of the assistance in the line. Include a note at the end of the Report that indicates the nature of the assistance and how many of these households are included in the regular crisis assistance categories (year round, winter, or summer crisis assistance).
- If the other LIHEAP assistance is NOT additional crisis assistance (i.e. not emergency assistance), those households should be reported as follows:
  - Report the households based on the funds used to furnish the non-crisis assistance, or to the basic type of related assistance (i.e. heating, cooling, or weatherization assistance). For example, if funds designated for heating assistance were used to provide non-emergency heating equipment repairs (in addition to a heating assistance benefit), households that received the non-emergency heating equipment repairs should generally be reported as part of the Heating Assistance counts.
  - DO NOT ADD a household that received other non-crisis LIHEAP assistance to the basic type of related assistance (i.e. heating, cooling, or weatherization assistance) if the household received the basic type of assistance and is already counted. Each household should be counted only once in each line of the report.
  - Include a detailed note indicating how you reported the other non-crisis assistance, explaining the nature of that assistance, and indicating the specific number of households that received the other non-crisis LIHEAP assistance.

SNAP households receiving only a reduced nominal LIHEAP benefit are not to be included in the count of households reported in lines 1 through 16. Instead, include households that received a reduced nominal LIHEAP benefits in line 17 to 19 in Section I. The number of such households will be included in a footnote for the relevant states in the annual *LIHEAP Report to Congress*.

### ***Data Consistency***

The data will be checked for consistency against the type of LIHEAP assistance that states report in their *LIHEAP Model Plan for FY 2020* and later with the data reported in each state's *LIHEAP Performance Data Form for FY 2020*. For example, if obligated funds are reported for cooling assistance and there are no household data reported for cooling assistance, then the state should include a note which explains the inconsistency. States may correct such issues by creating a revision and resubmitting their *LIHEAP Household Report* or *LIHEAP Performance Data Form* in OLDC.

### ***Household Data Elements***

Unduplicated household counts must be reported for the following data elements, by funding category:

1. number of assisted households, by EACH type of LIHEAP assistance,
2. number of applicant households, by EACH type of LIHEAP assistance,
3. number of assisted households by poverty level, by EACH type of LIHEAP assistance,
4. number of applicant households by poverty level, by EACH type of LIHEAP assistance,
5. number of assisted households having at least one member 60 years or older (elderly vulnerability group) by EACH type of LIHEAP assistance,
6. number of assisted households having at least one member with a disability (disability vulnerability group) according to the state's definition of disability by EACH type of LIHEAP assistance
7. number of assisted households having at least one member 5 years or under (young child vulnerability group) by EACH type of LIHEAP assistance,
8. number of assisted households by ANY type of LIHEAP assistance,
9. number of assisted households by **any** vulnerable group for EACH type of LIHEAP assistance,
10. number of assisted households by **each** vulnerable group for ANY type of LIHEAP assistance, and
11. number of assisted households by **any** vulnerable group and for ANY type of LIHEAP assistance.

Examples are included to help in understanding the instructions, and are included in the following tables:

<b>Table</b>	<b>Title</b>
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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Scenarios in Counting Unduplicated Assisted Households for EACH and ANY Type of Assistance, |
| 2 | Required Data Counts of Assisted Households with Vulnerable Members,                        |
| 3 | Counting Unduplicated Households for EACH and ANY Type of Assistance, and                   |
| 4 | Requested (Optional) Counts of Assisted Young Child Households by Age Category.             |

## **Section I – Number of Assisted Households**

Count all households assisted in FY 2020 with **federal LIHEAP funds**, as indicated above. Include complete data for households receiving LIHEAP weatherization assistance even if those funds were used under the Department of Energy's Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program.

### ***Number of Households for EACH Type of Assistance***

Report households that received a LIHEAP basic benefit for EACH and ANY type of LIHEAP assistance

and funding category in FY 2020. Unduplicated data also must include households that receive any “other” type of LIHEAP assistance, as explained below.

**For each type of LIHEAP assistance, report the number of households assisted for the following categories:**

1. The first line is for grantees to report information for all applicable households regardless of funding source. This is consistent with what grantees were required to report in the past. Grantees should report the total count of households, counting each household once if it received that type of assistance during FY 2020.
2. The second line is for grantees to report information for all applicable households that were assisted with CARES Act supplemental LIHEAP funding. Include households that received a benefit that was fully or partially funded with CARES Act funds. Exclude households that did not receive a benefit that was fully or partially funded by CARES Act funds.
3. The third line is for grantees to report information for all applicable households that were assisted with other Federal Supplemental LIHEAP funding (not including CARES Act funding), if any. Include households that received a benefit that was fully or partially funded with other Federal Supplemental LIHEAP funding (not including CARES Act funding). Exclude households that did not receive a benefit that was fully or partially funded by other Federal Supplemental LIHEAP funding (not including CARES Act funding). [Note: During FY 2020, grantees received regular LIHEAP funding and CARES Act supplemental LIHEAP Funding, but did not receive other Federal Supplemental LIHEAP funding. Therefore, lines labelled as reserved for other supplemental funding are locked from editing.]

State grantees are required to report unduplicated counts of the number of assisted and applicant LIHEAP households as described below. Reporting pointers include:

- An unduplicated count of households means that households are to be counted only once for each type of LIHEAP assistance that they applied for and did or did not receive (not all households that apply receive assistance). For example, a household receives two heating assistance benefits and three winter crisis assistance benefits. Count that household once under heating assistance and once under winter crisis for both applicant and assisted households.
- A household is counted separately as a heating assistance applicant and recipient household if it receives heating assistance, for example, in October 2020. If in January 2020 the household divides into two households, e.g., due to divorce or an adult child moving out of the house, the new household is to be counted as an applicant household and assisted household if it receives a specific type of LIHEAP assistance later in the Federal Fiscal Year.
- In most cases, the count of applicant households is greater than the count of assisted households for each type of assistance, depending on a state’s definition of an “applicant” household. However, the count of applicant households cannot be lower than the count of assisted households.
- A household receives “fast track” or “expedited” heating assistance in a crisis fuel situation when the grantee does not have a separate amount of funds designated for crisis fuel assistance. The ‘expediting’ or ‘fast tracking’ of benefits constitutes crisis intervention and the payment to the household constitutes heating assistance. Count that assisted household once under heating assistance and once under crisis assistance. Count that household as an applicant household under heating assistance only, as no crisis assistance funds were used.

***Number of Households for ANY Type of Assistance***

For each funding category, count a household once that received at least one type of LIHEAP assistance regardless of the type(s) of assistance provided to a household. For example, if a household received three heating assistance benefits, one winter crisis assistance benefit, and one cooling assistance benefit, then count that household only once under ANY Type of LIHEAP assistance. If a household only received a SNAP nominal benefit and no other LIHEAP assistance, it should not be included in the number of households receiving any type of assistance.

Table 1 provides examples for counting households for EACH and ANY Type of Assistance as described below. The table presents scenarios of five households lettered **A–E**. The scenarios provide examples of reporting of unduplicated household counts for those household by EACH type of LIHEAP assistance.

**Table 1. Counting Unduplicated Numbered of Assisted Households for EACH and ANY Type of Assistance**

Household Scenarios	Number of Assisted Households by Type of LIHEAP Assistance						
	Heating	Cooling	Year Round Crisis	Winter Crisis	Summer Crisis	Other Crisis	Wxz.
<b>Household A</b> receives three heating assistance benefits and one year round crisis assistance benefit.	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Household B</b> receives a heating assistance benefit, a cooling assistance benefit, and weatherization assistance.	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Household C</b> receives a winter crisis benefit, emergency replacement of its heating unit, and summer crisis assistance benefit.	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
<b>Household D</b> receives an “expedited” or “fast tracked” heating assistance benefit to avoid a utility shutoff.	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Household E</b> receives “fast tracked” heating assistance, regular cooling assistance, summer crisis assistance, replacement of an air conditioner, and weatherization assistance.	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
Unduplicated Number of Households for EACH Type of LIHEAP Assistance	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Unduplicated Number of Households for ANY Type of LIHEAP Assistance	<b>5</b>						

The number of households counted for EACH type of LIHEAP assistance cannot be added to calculate the unduplicated number of households that received ANY Type of LIHEAP Assistance because a household may receive more than one type of LIHEAP assistance.

***Number of Households Receiving Bill Payment Assistance (Items 14-16)***

Count those households that received LIHEAP “bill payment assistance” in FY 2020. For each funding category, please report an unduplicated count of those households that received any type of bill payment assistance, defined as any LIHEAP benefits used to pay a share of household energy bills, heat-in rent, and utility deposits. This includes heating (lines 1 through 3), cooling (lines 4 through 6), and crisis (lines 7a through 7i), and other cash benefits, including households that received heat-in-rent payments. [Note: households that received heat-in-rent are not households that received nominal LIHEAP benefits as part of a partnership with SNAP.]

Households that should NOT be counted in this item include:

- Households receiving only LIHEAP weatherization assistance or energy-related home repair (e.g. heating or cooling equipment repair or replacement), and
- Households receiving nominal benefits.

### ***Number of Households Receiving Nominal Payment Assistance (Items 17-19)***

For each funding category, count those households that received nominal LIHEAP benefits as part of a partnership with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This is often referred to as "Heat or Eat" or "Cool or Eat" Program. Such households are not to be included in the count of households receiving any type of LIHEAP assistance.

### **Section II - Assisted Households by Poverty Intervals for Each Type of LIHEAP Assistance**

Household poverty levels must be reported according to the specified percent intervals. The number of assisted and applicant households are to be counted by poverty level for EACH Type of LIHEAP Assistance, but not for applicant and assisted households that received ANY Type of LIHEAP Assistance. Reporting pointers include the following:

- An unduplicated number of households by poverty level means that a household is to be counted only once within a poverty level for EACH type of LIHEAP assistance provided to the household. The poverty intervals for applicant households also include the category of "Income data not available." For example, a heating assisted household's poverty level is 79%. Count that household once within the interval of 75% - 100% poverty for heating assistance under both applicant household and assisted household.
- The sum of the number of assisted households across the poverty intervals must equal the total number of assisted households for each type of assistance provided by the state. If this is not the case, provide the reason in the notes section at the end of the Report. Identify the data variable that is being described.

### ***Uniform Counting and Reporting***

Annual gross household incomes, adjusted by the number of household members (household size), are to be used in computing household poverty percentages, using the 2019 HHS Poverty Guidelines that were in effect at the beginning of FY 2020 (October 1, 2019). See: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-im2019-01-hhs-poverty-guidelines-fy2019>

### ***Gross Household Income Adjusted by Household Size***

Gross household income, adjusted by household size, is to be used in calculating a household's poverty level regardless of whether net income is used to establish income eligibility for LIHEAP assistance. Count an assisted household under the poverty level which is determined by the household's **gross** annual income and household size. Gross income is the household's income before any deductions or adjustments, such as taxes or medical costs, are made to household income.

Household members represent those related and/or unrelated individuals who are living together as one economic unit for whom residential energy is customarily purchased in common or who make undesignated payments for residential energy in the form of rent. (Section 2603(5) of the LIHEAP statute [42 U.S.C. 8622(5)].

If gross household income determinations are made using less than a full year's income for a household, then annualize the months of income used, e.g., 12 times one month of household income, or four times three months of household income. Gross household income and household size also are needed for those households that are categorically eligible for LIHEAP assistance, such as households receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or certain needs-tested veterans' benefits.

A household's gross annual income and/or household size can change during the fiscal year. If a household received two benefits or services under the same type of LIHEAP assistance, use that household's gross annual income and household size at the time of the initial determination of benefits or services in calculating that household's poverty level for statistical reporting.

### ***Calculating and Assigning Households to Poverty Percent Intervals***

The specific intervals for the poverty percents are shown in the **Long Form**. Compiling the data is best handled by computer programming. The basic steps in calculating both an applicant and assisted household's poverty level for FY 2020 are as follows:

1. Obtain information on the household's gross income and number of members in that household. Refer to the 2019 HHS Poverty Guidelines for the state's dollar amount that constitutes 100% of the HHS Poverty Guidelines for the number of members in the household.
2. Divide the assisted household's gross income by the dollar amount equal to 100% of the 2019 HHS Poverty Guidelines, multiply the result by 100, and express the result as a rounded percent.

Based on each applicant or assisted household's calculated percent, add the applicant or assisted household under the appropriate poverty interval. For each type of assistance, adding the number of assisted households by poverty intervals should result in the total unduplicated number of households assisted by that type of assistance. If this is not the case, please note the reason. This also applies to reporting the number of applicant households by poverty intervals (including applicant households with "Income data unavailable").

Some households that qualify for LIHEAP income eligibility using a household's net income can be counted in a higher poverty level using gross income. For example, a household's net income, adjusted for household size, may equal that state's income cutoff of 125% of poverty. The use of the household's gross income would most likely result in that household's classification of "126 - 150%" of poverty. To further illustrate, below are four examples of calculating and classifying a household's poverty interval (using the 2019 HHS Poverty Guidelines that were in effect at the beginning of FY 2020 (October 1, 2019)).

1. A weatherization assistance household with one member residing in Maine has a gross household income of \$13,373. According to the 2019 HHS Poverty Guidelines for Maine, \$12,490 represents 100% of the Poverty Guidelines for a one-person household. Divide the household's income of \$13,373 by \$12,490 and multiply by 100 = 107.07. Rounding off to the nearest whole percent = 107% of the 2019 HHS Poverty Guidelines. That household is classified as being within the interval of "101%-125% poverty" for weatherization assistance.
2. A heating assistance household with three members from Arizona has a gross income of \$27,241. According to the 2019 HHS Poverty Guidelines for Arizona, \$21,330 represents 100% of the HHS Poverty Guidelines for a three-person household. Divide the household's income of \$27,241 by \$21,330 and multiply by 100 = 127.71. Rounding off to the nearest whole percent = 128% of the 2019 HHS Poverty Guidelines. That household is classified as being within the interval of "126% -150% poverty" for heating assistance.
3. A winter crisis assistance household with five members from Ohio has a gross income of \$25,368. According to the 2019 HHS Poverty Guidelines for Ohio, \$31,170 represents 100% of the HHS Poverty Guidelines for a five-person household. Divide the household's income of \$26,878 by \$31,170 and multiply by 100 = 86.23. Rounding off to the nearest whole percent = 86% of the 2019 HHS Poverty Guidelines. That household is classified as being within the interval of "75% -100% poverty" for winter crisis assistance.
4. A summer crisis assistance household with 8 members from North Dakota has a gross income of

\$74,943. According to the 2019 HHS Poverty Guidelines for North Dakota, \$43,430 represents 100% of the HHS Poverty Guidelines for an 8-person household. Divide the household's income of \$74,943 by \$43,430 and multiply by 100 = 172.56. Rounding off to the nearest whole percent = 173% of the 2019 HHS Poverty Guidelines. That household is classified as being in the interval of "over 150% poverty" for summer crisis assistance.

### Section III – Number of Assisted Households by Vulnerable Populations

An assisted household is classified as vulnerable if it has at least one household member who belongs to any of the following three groups of vulnerable households:

1. elderly, i.e., one member 60 years or older,
2. disabled (using the grantee's definition of "disabled", as the LIHEAP statute does not define the term), or
3. young child, i.e., age 5 years or under (include all children who are not yet 6 years old, that is, up to 5 years and 364 days old).

Table 2 includes scenarios about four households that provide further examples of the counting and reporting of unduplicated household counts for each group of vulnerable households.

**Table 2. Required Data Counts of Assisted Households With Vulnerable Members**

(E) elderly      (D) disabled      (C) a young child 5 years or under

Vulnerability Group Category	Household A Cathy--29 Frank--36 Martha--67 (E) Al--76 (E) (D)	Household B Alice--46 Tom--17 Fran--12	Household C Andrew--42 (D) Pauline--35 Susan--72 (E) Charlie--5 (C)	Household D Sylvia--23 Carl--27 Rick--2 (C) Chet--4 (C)	Total number of assisted households
	<b>REQUIRED DATA</b>				
Number of assisted households	1	1	1	1	4
	<b>Number of assisted households with at least one member who is:</b>				
60 years or older (E)	1	0	1	0	2
Disabled (D)	1	0	1	0	2
Age 5 years or under (C)	0	0	1	1	2
<b>E, D, or C</b>	1	0	1	1	3

#### *Number of Vulnerable Households by Each Vulnerable Group for EACH Type of Assistance*

Data need to be reported **separately** for each of the three vulnerable groups of households for EACH type of LIHEAP assistance, as shown in Table 3. In calculating and reporting the data, note the following:

1. A household is to be counted for each vulnerable group in which the household has at least one member who is 60 years or older, disabled, or age 5 years or under. For example, a household that receives heating assistance includes one child 2 years old, another child 4 years old, and an elderly member who also is disabled. This household would be counted once under each of the following vulnerable groups for heating assistance: 60 years or older, disabled, and age 5 or under.

2. An assisted household with two or more members in the same vulnerable group is to be counted once. For example, a household with two members who are both 65 years old would be counted once under 60 years or older.
3. The data on vulnerable groups are household counts; not the count of vulnerable persons or the number of heads of households that are vulnerable.

***Number of Vulnerable Households by Any Vulnerable Group for EACH Type of Assistance***

Data need to be reported **separately** for each type of LIHEAP assistance provided for the unduplicated number of households that had at least one member belonging to any of the three vulnerable household groups. For example, if a cooling assisted household includes any vulnerable members, then count that household once under any vulnerable group (Elderly, Disabled, or Young Child) for cooling assistance.

***Number of Vulnerable Households by Each Vulnerable Group, for ANY Type of Assistance***

Data need to be reported **separately** for each group of vulnerable households that received ANY type of LIHEAP assistance. For example, if a heating assisted household has two children under the age 5 and one person over the age of 60, then count that household under Any Type of Assistance, once under elderly, once under young child, and once under Elderly, Disabled, or Young Child. See Table 3 on the next page for examples.

***Number of Vulnerable Households by Any Vulnerable Group, for ANY Type of Assistance***

Data need to be reported for households having at least one member that is 60 years or older, disabled, or 5 years or younger for ANY Type of LIHEAP Assistance. For example, if a household receives cooling and weatherization assistance and includes at least one vulnerable member, then count that household as receiving ANY Type of Assistance under Elderly, Disabled, or Young Child.

**Table 3. Household Scenarios in Counting Unduplicated Vulnerable Households by EACH and ANY Type of LIHEAP Assistance**

(E) elderly

(D) disabled

(C) a young child 5 years or under

Household scenarios	Household				
	A receives three heating benefits & one summer crisis benefit.	B receives a heating benefit, cooling benefit, & weatherization	C receives a year round crisis benefit, an emergency furnace replacement, & summer crisis benefit.	D receives an "expedited" heating benefit to avoid a shutoff, summer crisis benefit, air conditioner repair, & weatherization.	E splits from Household D & receives two winter crisis benefits.
Household members who are vulnerable	Cathy-29 Father-67 (E) Al-36 Mother-72 (E) & (D))	Alice-46 Father 61(E) Tom-17 Fran-2 (C)	Andrew-42 Mother-72 (E) Pauline-35 Charlie-6 (D)	Silvia-23 Ellen-8 Carl-27 Rick-6	Silvia-23 Ellen-5 (C)
EACH Type of LIHEAP Assistance	Number of Assisted Households				
	Total	Household A - E with least one member who is			With anyone who is Elderly, Disabled, or Young Child
	Elderly	Disabled	Young Child		
HEATING	3 A, B, D	2 A, B	1 A	1 B	2* A, B
COOLING	1 B	1	0 B	1 B	1* B
YEAR-ROUND CRISIS	1 C	1	1 C	0 C	1* C
WINTER CRISIS	2 D, E	0 --	0 --	1 E	1* E
SUMMER CRISIS	3 A, C, D	2 A, C	2 A, C	0 --	2* A, C
WEATHERIZATION	2 B, D	1 B	0 --	1 B	1* B
ANY Type of LIHEAP Assistance	5**	3**	2**	2**	4***
	A, B, C, D, E	A, B, C	A, C	B, E	A, B, C, E

\*Do not add the separate numbers of elderly, disabled or young child households to calculate the unduplicated number of **Elderly, Disabled, or Young Child** households for **EACH Type of LIHEAP Assistance**, as assisted households can have members counted under more than one vulnerable group.

\*\*Do not add the column of the unduplicated number of assisted households for each type of assistance to calculate the unduplicated number households for **ANY Type of Assistance**, as assisted households can be counted under more than one type of LIHEAP assistance.

\*\*\*Do not add the number of **Elderly, Disabled, or Young Child** households for each type of LIHEAP assistance to calculate the unduplicated number of **Elderly, Disabled, or Young Child** households under **ANY Type or LIHEAP Assistance**, as such households can be counted under **EACH Type of LIHEAP Assistance**.

## IV. Number of Applicant Households

The **Long Form** includes Sections IV and V for applicant household data. The reporting instructions on unduplicated household counts and poverty data are the same for reporting on assisted and applicant households.

The definition of "applicant" households is left to each LIHEAP grantee, as the LIHEAP statute does not define the term. Consequently, there will be variation among states in their counts due to differences in how states define "applicant" households. For example, some states may not count those households screened out before a formal LIHEAP application is completed. Also, states may not have households apply for LIHEAP once their programs close.

The count of applicant households should include the number of households that applied for EACH type of LIHEAP assistance, whether or not they actually receive LIHEAP assistance. Stated differently, the count should include the number of approved, denied, and pending applications for each type of LIHEAP assistance. This count should be greater than the count of assisted households for each specific type of LIHEAP assistance, depending on a state's definition of an "applicant" household. If this is not the case, please include a brief explanation in the notes section.

## V. Number of Applicant Households by Poverty Intervals

An unduplicated number of applicant households by poverty level means that an applicant household is to be counted only once within a poverty level for EACH type of LIHEAP assistance that the household applied. The poverty intervals for applicant households also include the category of "Income data unavailable." For example, a household applying for heating assistance has a poverty level of 79%. Count that household once within the interval of 76%-100% poverty for heating assistance under applicant households. Further information is applicable in Section II that applies to assisted households.

## VI. Number of Assisted Households by Young Child Age Category (Optional)

Both House Report 103-483 and Senate Report 103-251 on S. 2000, the predecessor to Public Law 103-252 (the Human Services Amendments of 1994), instructed the Department to develop reporting requirements that distinguish between children under 3 years of age and those 3 years through 5 years of age.

The count of assisted households with at least one child 5 years or under is **required**. Counts of assisted households with at least one child who is (a) 2 years old or under and (b) between 3 years and 5 years are **requested**, i.e., **optional** data items if the grantee elects to report the data. See Table 4 for examples.

If reporting the requested data:

1. Count the number of assisted households with at least one child 5 years or under for each type of LIHEAP assistance provided.
2. Using those assisted households with at least one child 5 years or under, count the number of households with at least one child who is 2 years old or under.
3. Using those assisted households with at least one child 5 years or under, count the number of households with at least one child who is between 3 years through 5 years old regardless of whether those households have already been counted age 2 years or under.

The sum of the number of households with at least one child 2 years or under and the number of households with at least one child between 3 years-5 years should **be greater** than the number of households with at least one child 5 years or under.

**Table 4. Requested (Optional) Data Counts of Assisted Households with Young Children**

(C\*) a young child 2 years or under

(C\*\*) a young child between 3- 5 years

Vulnerable Group Category	Household				Number of assisted households
	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	
	Cathy--29 Frank--36 Martha--67 (E) Tom--76 (E) (D)	Alice--46 Don--17 Fran--12	Andrew--42 (D) Pauline--35 Susan--72 (E) Charlie--5 (C**)	Sylvia--23 Carl--27 Raymond--2 (C*) Chet--4 (C**)	
	<b>REQUESTED DATA</b>				
	<b>Number of assisted households with at least one member who is:</b>				
Age 2 years or under (C*)	0	0	0	1	1
Age 3 years through 5 years (C**)	0	0	1	1	2

## Notes

The notes section is where all notes need to be entered concerning the data in the way of explanations and qualifications. Full use of the notes section can help to minimize or avoid follow up queries. Please identify which part of the *LIHEAP Household Report* that you are noting.

## Certification

This is where the official signing the *LIHEAP Household Report* clicks the “certify” and “click to sign” buttons in OLDC, which will then populate the date. Also provide the official’s name, job title, and telephone number. Please submit the completed *LIHEAP Household Report* in OLDC (in ACF’s Grants Solutions) at: <https://home.grantsolutions.gov/home/>.