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***Low Income Home Energy  
Assistance***

**Information Memorandum**

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Office of Community Services  
Division of Energy Assistance  
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20447  
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap>

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**Transmittal No. LIHEAP-IM-2014-05**

**Date: July 23, 2014**

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TO: LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
(LIHEAP) GRANTEES AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

GUIDANCE INTENDED FOR:   X   STATES  
  X   TRIBES/TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS  
  X   TERRITORIES

SUBJECT: State Median Income Estimates for Optional Use in Federal Fiscal Year 2014 LIHEAP Programs and Mandatory Use in Federal Fiscal Year 2015 LIHEAP Programs.

RELATED REFERENCES: (1) The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act, Title XXVI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, Public Law 97-35, as amended;  
(2) 45 CFR 96.85 (b), Income Eligibility — Final Rule, published in the **Federal Register** on March 3, 1988 (53 FR 6827) and amended October 15, 1999 (64 FR 55858); and  
(3) Annual Update of the LIHEAP State Median Income estimates, published in the [Federal Register](#) on July 21, 2014 (79 FR 42331-42333).

PURPOSE: To provide to LIHEAP grantees the state median income (SMI) estimates for use in LIHEAP programs for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015.

BACKGROUND: Section 2605(b)(2)(B) of P.L. 97-35 sets the maximum allowed in determining income eligibility for LIHEAP at 60 percent of SMI, except where 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) is higher. LIHEAP grantees may set their programs' income eligibility criteria anywhere between 110 percent of FPG and this maximum.

CONTENT: In this memorandum, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces that it has updated the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) income-eligibility limits based upon state median income (SMI) for the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. These limits make up part of the maximum

that LIHEAP grantees may use in setting their programs' income eligibility criteria. LIHEAP grantees may set such criteria anywhere between 110 percent of Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) and the greater of (1) this maximum; and (2) 150 percent of FPG.

HHS calculated these limits from the SMI estimates for a 4-person family developed by the United States Census Bureau (Census Bureau). HHS assimilated the Census Bureau's estimates for a family into the income eligibility criteria for a household because the LIHEAP statute requires it to do so. HHS calculated 60 percent of such estimates and published the resulting figures in the **Federal Register** on July 21, 2014. See [Attachment 1](#) for the complete text of this notice.

HHS calculated these limits for households of sizes other than 4 persons under the methodology specified in 45 CFR 96.85. This methodology calls for HHS to multiply the limit for a four-person household by the following: (1) 52 percent for one person; (2) 68 percent for two persons; (3) 84 percent for three persons; (4) 100 percent for four persons; (5) 116 percent for five persons; and (6) 132 percent for six persons. HHS did not calculate the limits for households of sizes greater than six persons; however, those limits are based on that for a four-person family times 132 percent plus 3 percentage points for each household member above six. See [Attachment 2](#) for (1) the 60 percent of SMI figures for households of sizes one through six; and (2) a reiteration of the instructions for calculating 60 percent of SMI for households of sizes greater than six.

Grantees should determine the SMI-based limits on household size, not family size. However, because the figures presented in the **Federal Register** and here show such limits by family size, grantees should consider the applicable limit for a family, as presented here, to be that for a household in their programs.

Grantees must limit LIHEAP eligibility to 150 percent of the FPG or 60 percent of SMI. Grantees must set LIHEAP income-eligibility at or below the greater of these two levels; however, they may not set LIHEAP income-eligibility below 110 percent of the FPG.

### **Optional Use**

Grantees, insofar as they use SMI to set their programs' income eligibility criteria, may adopt these estimates at any time between July 21, 2014 (the date of publication in the **Federal Register**) and October 1, 2014 (the beginning of FFY 2015) or the beginning of the grantee's fiscal year, whichever is later.

## **Mandatory Use**

LIHEAP grantees, insofar as they use SMI to set their programs' income eligibility criteria, must adopt these estimates by no later than October 1, 2014 (the beginning of FFY 2015) or the beginning of the grantee's fiscal year, whichever is later.

- ATTACHMENTS:
- (1) **Federal Register** Notice, published on July 21, 2014 (79 FR 42331-42333).
  - (2) 60 percent of estimated state median income adjusted for family size, by state, FFY 2015

INQUIRIES:

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/s/  
Jeannie L. Chaffin  
Director  
Office of Community Services

[Federal Register Volume 79, Number 139 (Monday, July 21, 2014)]

[Notices]

[Pages 42331-42333]

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[FR Doc No: 2014-17063]

## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **Administration for Children and Families**

**C.F.D.A. Number: 93.568**

#### **Notice of LIHEAP State Median Income Estimates for FFY 2015**

**AGENCY:** Office of Community Services, ACF, HHS.

**ACTION:** State Median Income Estimates for a Four-Person Household: Notice of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015 State Median Income Estimates for Use in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

**SUMMARY:** The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Community Services (OCS), Division of Energy Assistance (DEA) announces the estimated median income of four-person households in each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico for FFY 2015 (October 1, 2014, to September 30, 2015).

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* These estimates become effective at any time between the date of this publication and the later of (1) October 1, 2014; or (2) the beginning of a grantee's fiscal year.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Peter Edelman, Program Analyst, Office of Community Services, 5th Floor West, 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW., Washington, DC 20447. Telephone: 202-401-5292; Email: [peter.edelman@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:peter.edelman@acf.hhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice announces to grantees of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) the estimated median income of four-person households in each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico for FFY 2015 (October 1, 2014, to September 30, 2015). LIHEAP grantees that choose to base their income eligibility criteria on these state median income (SMI) estimates may adopt these estimates (up to 60 percent) on their date of publication in the **Federal Register** or on a later date as discussed in the "Dates" section. This enables grantees to implement this notice during the period between the heating and cooling seasons. However, by October 1, 2014, or the beginning of the grantee's fiscal year, whichever is later, such grantees must adjust their income eligibility criteria so that they are in accord with the FFY 2015 SMI.

Sixty percent of SMI for each LIHEAP grantee, as annually established by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, is one of the income criteria that LIHEAP grantees may use in determining a household's income eligibility for LIHEAP. The last time LIHEAP was authorized was by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Public Law 109-58, which was enacted on August 8, 2005. This authorization expired on September 30, 2007, and reauthorization remains pending.

The SMI estimates in this notice are 3-year estimates derived from the American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce (Census Bureau).

For additional information about the ACS state median income estimates, including the definition of income and the derivation of medians see [http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data\\_documentation/SubjectDefinitions/2012\\_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/SubjectDefinitions/2012_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf) under “Income in the Past 12 Months.” For additional information about using the ACS 3-year estimates vs. using the 1-year or 5-year estimates, see [http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance\\_for\\_data\\_users/estimates/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/estimates/). For additional information about the ACS in general, see <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/> or contact the Census Bureau’s Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division at (301) 763-3243.

These SMI estimates, like those derived from any survey, are subject to two types of errors: (1) Non-sampling Error, which consists of random errors that increase the variability of the data and non-random errors that consistently shift the data in a specific direction; and (2) Sampling Error, which consists of the error that arises from the use of probability sampling to create the sample. For additional information about the accuracy of the ACS SMI estimates, see [http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data\\_documentation/Accuracy/MultiyearACSAccuracyofData2012.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/MultiyearACSAccuracyofData2012.pdf).

In the state-by-state listing of SMI and 60 percent of SMI for a four-person family for FFY 2015, LIHEAP grantees must regard “family” to be the equivalent of “household” with regards to setting their income eligibility criteria. This listing describes the method for adjusting SMI for households of different sizes, as specified in regulations applicable to LIHEAP (45 CFR 96.85(b)). These regulations were published in the **Federal Register** on March 3, 1988, (53 FR 6827) and amended on October 15, 1999 (64 FR 55858).

ESTIMATED STATE MEDIAN INCOME FOR FOUR-PERSON FAMILIES, BY STATE, FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2015 [FOR USE IN THE LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)]

States	Estimated state median income for four-person families <sup>1</sup>	60 percent of estimated state median income for four-person families <sup>2 3</sup>
<b>Alabama</b>	\$65,575	\$39,345
<b>Alaska</b>	89,082	53,449
<b>Arizona</b>	63,560	38,136
<b>Arkansas</b>	58,947	35,368
<b>California</b>	76,804	46,082
<b>Colorado</b>	85,182	51,109

<b>States</b>	<b>Estimated state median income for four-person families <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>60 percent of estimated state median income for four-person families <sup>2 3</sup></b>
<b>Connecticut</b>	104,214	62,528
<b>Delaware</b>	85,261	51,157
<b>District of Columbia</b>	100,408	60,245
<b>Florida</b>	65,166	39,100
<b>Georgia</b>	67,885	40,731
<b>Hawaii</b>	85,096	51,058
<b>Idaho</b>	62,088	37,253
<b>Illinois</b>	82,114	49,268
<b>Indiana</b>	71,057	42,634
<b>Iowa</b>	76,955	46,173
<b>Kansas</b>	75,582	45,349
<b>Kentucky</b>	67,026	40,216
<b>Louisiana</b>	69,514	41,708
<b>Maine</b>	77,344	46,406
<b>Maryland</b>	106,452	63,871
<b>Massachusetts</b>	104,545	62,727
<b>Michigan</b>	73,991	44,395
<b>Minnesota</b>	89,824	53,894
<b>Mississippi</b>	56,573	33,944
<b>Missouri</b>	71,915	43,149
<b>Montana</b>	69,557	41,734
<b>Nebraska</b>	74,905	44,943
<b>Nevada</b>	65,832	39,499
<b>New Hampshire</b>	97,547	58,528
<b>New Jersey</b>	105,497	63,298

<b>States</b>	<b>Estimated state median income for four-person families <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>60 percent of estimated state median income for four-person families <sup>2 3</sup></b>
<b>New Mexico</b>	58,215	34,929
<b>New York</b>	84,381	50,629
<b>North Carolina</b>	66,844	40,106
<b>North Dakota</b>	86,170	51,702
<b>Ohio</b>	75,188	45,113
<b>Oklahoma</b>	64,091	38,455
<b>Oregon</b>	68,929	41,357
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	81,802	49,081
<b>Rhode Island</b>	89,587	53,752
<b>South Carolina</b>	63,212	37,927
<b>South Dakota</b>	73,736	44,242
<b>Tennessee</b>	63,997	38,398
<b>Texas</b>	67,757	40,654
<b>Utah</b>	68,036	40,822
<b>Vermont</b>	81,615	48,969
<b>Virginia</b>	91,442	54,865
<b>Washington</b>	83,863	50,318
<b>West Virginia</b>	66,130	39,678
<b>Wisconsin</b>	80,612	48,367
<b>Wyoming</b>	76,526	45,916
<b>Puerto Rico</b>	28,861	17,317

<sup>1</sup> These figures were prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce (Census Bureau), from 3-year estimates from the 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Surveys (ACSs). These estimates, like those derived from any survey, are subject to two types of error: (1) Non-sampling Error, which consists of random errors that increase the variability of the data and non-random errors that consistently direct the data in a specific direction; and (2) Sampling Error, which consists of the error that arises from the use of probability sampling to create the sample.

<sup>2</sup> These figures were calculated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services, Division of Energy Assistance by multiplying the estimated state median income for a four-person family for each state by 60 percent.

<sup>3</sup> To adjust for different sizes of households for LIHEAP purposes, 45 CFR 96.85 calls for multiplying 60 percent of a state's estimated median income for a four-person family by the following percentages: 52 percent for a one-person household, 68 percent for a two-person household, 84 percent for a three-person household, 100 percent for a four-person household, 116 percent for a five-person household, and 132 percent for a six-person household. For each additional household member above six people, 45 CFR 96.85 calls for adding 3 percentage points to the percentage for a six-person household (132 percent) and multiplying the new percentage by 60 percent of the median income for a four-person family.

**Note:** FFY 2015 covers the period of October 1, 2014, through September 30, 2015. The estimated median income for four-person families living in the United States for this period is \$76,365. Grantees that use SMI for LIHEAP may, at their option, employ such estimates at any time between the date of this publication and the later of October 1, 2014 or the beginning of their fiscal year.

**Statutory Authority:** 45 CFR 96.85(b) and 42 U.S.C. 8624(b)(2)(B)(ii)

Dated: July 15, 2014.

**Jeannie L. Chaffin,**

*Director, Office of Community Services.*

[FR Doc. 2014-17063 Filed 7-18-14;8:45 a.m.]

**BILLING CODE 4184-01-P**

**ESTIMATED STATE MEDIAN INCOME, BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND BY STATE,  
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2014**

States	Estimated State Median Income (SMI) for four-person families <sup>1</sup>	60 percent of estimated SMI for four-person families <sup>2</sup>	60 Percent of Estimated SMI <sup>2</sup>					
			1-Person Hshld.	2-Person Hshld.	3-Person Hshld.	4-Person Hshld.	5-Person Hshld.	6-Person Hshld.
Alabama	\$65,575	\$39,345	\$20,459	\$26,755	\$33,050	\$39,345	\$45,640	\$51,935
Alaska	89,082	53,449	27,793	36,345	44,897	53,449	62,001	70,553
Arizona	63,560	38,136	19,831	25,932	32,034	38,136	44,238	50,340
Arkansas	58,947	35,368	18,391	24,050	29,709	35,368	41,027	46,686
California	76,804	46,082	23,963	31,336	38,709	46,082	53,455	60,828
Colorado	85,182	51,109	26,577	34,754	42,932	51,109	59,286	67,464
Connecticut	104,214	62,528	32,515	42,519	52,524	62,528	72,532	82,537
Delaware	85,261	51,157	26,602	34,787	42,972	51,157	59,342	67,527
Dist. of Col.	100,408	60,245	31,327	40,967	50,606	60,245	69,884	79,523
Florida	65,166	39,100	20,332	26,588	32,844	39,100	45,356	51,612
Georgia	67,885	40,731	21,180	27,697	34,214	40,731	47,248	53,765
Hawaii	85,096	51,058	26,550	34,719	42,889	51,058	59,227	67,397
Idaho	62,088	37,253	19,372	25,332	31,293	37,253	43,213	49,174
Illinois	82,114	49,268	25,619	33,502	41,385	49,268	57,151	65,034
Indiana	71,057	42,634	22,170	28,991	35,813	42,634	49,455	56,277
Iowa	76,955	46,173	24,010	31,398	38,785	46,173	53,561	60,948
Kansas	75,582	45,349	23,581	30,837	38,093	45,349	52,605	59,861
Kentucky	67,026	40,216	20,912	27,347	33,781	40,216	46,651	53,085
Louisiana	69,514	41,708	21,688	28,361	35,035	41,708	48,381	55,055
Maine	77,344	46,406	24,131	31,556	38,981	46,406	53,831	61,256

States	Estimated State Median Income (SMI) for four-person families <sup>1</sup>	60 percent of estimated SMI for four-person families <sup>2</sup>	60 Percent of Estimated SMI <sup>2</sup>					
			1-Person Hsehd.	2-Person Hsehd.	3-Person Hsehd.	4-Person Hsehd.	5-Person Hsehd.	6-Person Hsehd.
<b>Maryland</b>	106,452	63,871	33,213	43,432	53,652	63,871	74,090	84,310
<b>Massachusetts</b>	104,545	62,727	32,618	42,654	52,691	62,727	72,763	82,800
<b>Michigan</b>	73,991	44,395	23,085	30,189	37,292	44,395	51,498	58,601
<b>Minnesota</b>	89,824	53,894	28,025	36,648	45,271	53,894	62,517	71,140
<b>Mississippi</b>	56,573	33,944	17,651	23,082	28,513	33,944	39,375	44,806
<b>Missouri</b>	71,915	43,149	22,437	29,341	36,245	43,149	50,053	56,957
<b>Montana</b>	69,557	41,734	21,702	28,379	35,057	41,734	48,411	55,089
<b>Nebraska</b>	74,905	44,943	23,370	30,561	37,752	44,943	52,134	59,325
<b>Nevada</b>	65,832	39,499	20,539	26,859	33,179	39,499	45,819	52,139
<b>New Hampshr.</b>	97,547	58,528	30,435	39,799	49,164	58,528	67,892	77,257
<b>New Jersey</b>	105,497	63,298	32,915	43,043	53,170	63,298	73,426	83,553
<b>New Mexico</b>	58,215	34,929	18,163	23,752	29,340	34,929	40,518	46,106
<b>New York</b>	84,381	50,629	26,327	34,428	42,528	50,629	58,730	66,830
<b>N. Carolina</b>	66,844	40,106	20,855	27,272	33,689	40,106	46,523	52,940
<b>North Dakota</b>	86,170	51,702	26,885	35,157	43,430	51,702	59,974	68,247
<b>Ohio</b>	75,188	45,113	23,459	30,677	37,895	45,113	52,331	59,549
<b>Oklahoma</b>	64,091	38,455	19,997	26,149	32,302	38,455	44,608	50,761
<b>Oregon</b>	68,929	41,357	21,506	28,123	34,740	41,357	47,974	54,591
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	81,802	49,081	25,522	33,375	41,228	49,081	56,934	64,787
<b>Rhode Island</b>	89,587	53,752	27,951	36,551	45,152	53,752	62,352	70,953
<b>South Carolina</b>	63,212	37,927	19,722	25,790	31,859	37,927	43,995	50,064
<b>South Dakota</b>	73,736	44,242	23,006	30,085	37,163	44,242	51,321	58,399
<b>Tennessee</b>	63,997	38,398	19,967	26,111	32,254	38,398	44,542	50,685

States	Estimated State Median Income (SMI) for four-person families <sup>1</sup>	60 percent of estimated SMI for four-person families <sup>2</sup>	60 Percent of Estimated SMI <sup>2</sup>					
			1-Person Hsehd.	2-Person Hsehd.	3-Person Hsehd.	4-Person Hsehd.	5-Person Hsehd.	6-Person Hsehd.
Texas	67,757	40,654	21,140	27,645	34,149	40,654	47,159	53,663
Utah	68,036	40,822	21,227	27,759	34,290	40,822	47,354	53,885
Vermont	81,615	48,969	25,464	33,299	41,134	48,969	56,804	64,639
Virginia	91,442	54,865	28,530	37,308	46,087	54,865	63,643	72,422
Washington	83,863	50,318	26,165	34,216	42,267	50,318	58,369	66,420
West Virginia	66,130	39,678	20,633	26,981	33,330	39,678	46,026	52,375
Wisconsin	80,612	48,367	25,151	32,890	40,628	48,367	56,106	63,844
Wyoming	76,526	45,916	23,876	31,223	38,569	45,916	53,263	60,609

Note--The estimated U.S. median income for 4-person families is \$76,365 for the period of October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.

<sup>1</sup> Prepared by the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services, Division of Energy Assistance. In accordance with 45 CFR 96.85, 60 percent of each State's estimated median income for a four-person family is multiplied by the following percentages to adjust for household size for LIHEAP: 52 percent for one person, 68 percent for two persons, 84 percent for three persons, 100 percent for four persons, 116 percent for five persons, and 132 percent for six persons. For each additional household member above six persons, add three percentage points to the percentage for a six-person household (132 percent), and multiply the new percentage by 60 percent of the State's estimated median income for a four-person household.

<sup>2</sup> Prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce (Census Bureau) from the 2010 through 2012 American Community Surveys (ACSs). For further information, see Table B19119 for the three-year estimates of the 2010 through 2012 ACSs. One can find this table by (1) going to the webpage <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t>; (2) entering "B19119" in the "Search for:" box; (3) selecting "B19119: MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2012 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS) BY FAMILY SIZE" from the drop-down; (4) clicking on the hyperlink next to the "2012 ACS 3-year estimates" dataset; (5) selecting "Geographies (states, counties, places, ...)"; (6) selecting a geographic type of "State"; (7) adding "All States within United States"; and (8) clicking on "View". Alternatively, one can contact the Census Bureau's Social, Economic and Housing Statistics Division (SEHSD) at (301) 763-3243.