

Program: Low Income Assistance Plan (LIAP)	MHPN # 2023-LIAP-001
Action: LIAP Enrollment Expansion	Effective Date: 09/27/2023
Issued by: MaineHousing, Energy and Housing Services	Expired Date:

This MaineHousing Notice is being issued to provide information regarding the recent announcement to expand LIAP.

1. LIAP Enrollment Expansion

On Tuesday September 26, 2023 the PUC authorized an expansion of the Low Income Assistance Program (LIAP) which provides a credit on the electric bill of eligible households. An announcement was made that the programs eligibility is being expanded from 75% of FPL to 150% of FPL.

The changes that they are implementing will not have an impact on the processes that each Agency has in place for LIAP eligibility and enrollment. Each Utility is responsible for creating their own LIAP program to be implemented and their eligibility can be based on the amount of funding that the PUC orders each Utility to contribute. As such, it would be possible for a Utility to limit enrollment to Households who are at 75% of FPL or lower. The increase in income limits may allow additional HEAP Households to receive the credit if the Utility serving the area did not previously enroll up to 150% of the federal poverty level.

The primary reason for the increase, and announcement, is in regards to the letters that are sent to eligible Households through DHHS means tested programs. In Program Year 2023, DHHS provided letters to any eligible Households who was at 75% of FPL or below, this letter was a way for Households to enroll directly in the LIAP program with their Utility without applying for HEAP. The updated guidance will have DHHS providing letters to Households who are at 150% of the federal poverty level.

The funding for the Program Years 2024 and 2025 will be increased by \$7.5million each year through additional funding provided in the State Budget. This may also allow for a higher benefit for households that are eligible, however that increase will most likely depend upon overall number of participants in the LIAP program.

2. Notice Contact

Genevieve Soucy, *Director of Energy and Housing Services* ▪ (207) 626-4600 ▪ gsoucy@mainehousing.org

Maine State Housing Authority (“MaineHousing”) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, age, familial status or receipt of public assistance in the admission or access to or treatment in its programs and activities. In employment, MaineHousing does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, ancestry, age, physical or mental disability or genetic information. MaineHousing will provide appropriate communication auxiliary aids and services upon sufficient notice. MaineHousing will also provide this document in alternative formats upon sufficient notice. MaineHousing has designated the following person responsible for coordinating compliance with applicable federal and state nondiscrimination requirements and addressing grievances:

*Lauren Bastard, Maine State Housing Authority, 26 Edison Drive, Augusta, Maine 04330,
Telephone Number 1-800-452-4668 (voice in state only), (207) 626-4600 (voice) or Maine Relay 711.*

