

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Draft FFY2027 State Plan

Hearing Date: July 17, 2026

Time: 1:00pm

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting (virtual)

Register here: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/cda8d19e-ee47-42ef-9f08-2107ceb8cb54@eb14b046-24c4-4519-8f26-b89c2159828c>

Background

The draft FFY2027 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) State Plan describes how federal LIHEAP funds will be used to help low-income households reduce their energy burdens. Commerce uses comments received at the public hearing and during the comment period to develop the final state plan.

Visit <https://mn.gov/home> to read the draft state plan and proposed changes.

Public Hearing Information

- The public hearing starts on time and continues until all attendees have an opportunity to offer comments and ask questions, or until 2:00pm, whichever comes first
- You may join the meeting up to 10 minutes early
- Minnesota Department of Commerce staff run the hearing and are available to answer questions
- You may share verbal comments at the hearing, or you may submit written comments as described below

Submit Comments

Please share your comments about the FFY2027 State Plan and about Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program (EAP). We are especially interested in these topics.

- What part of applying for Energy Assistance is most difficult? If you could change one thing about the application process, what would it be?
- Are Energy Assistance applications readily available in your community? What is the easiest way to get one? What is one thing that would make getting an application easier?
- Minnesota’s Energy Assistance Program plans to transfer approximately 10% of its FFY27 award to the Weatherization program, which is similar to the amount transferred over the past several years. This amount may need to be reduced if federal funding is cut. Please comment on any impacts that this change may have.
- Income Eligibility Guidelines changes – In response to future federal funding uncertainty, EAP must plan for potential funding cuts. Any cuts would require the program to adjust the income eligibility guidelines to accommodate less funding to process applications and provide meaningful benefits, but should not require a reduction in average benefit amounts per eligible applicant. Specifically, EAP plans to reduce the income eligibility guidelines to serve a number of households that is proportionate to any enacted cuts. For example:

Funding Cut % (from current)	Households Served	Income Eligibility Limit (State Median Income Percent)	Maximum Annual Income for Household of 4
0%	125,000	50%	\$73,970
10%	120,000	44%	\$65,053
20%	100,000	36%	\$53,546
30%	90,000	31%	\$45,540
40%	75,000	26%	\$39,105

Note that because of limitations on the percent of federal funding that can be spent administering the program, EAP Service Providers would not be able to process the same number of applications as in previous years with significantly less funding. Please comment on how these changes may impact:

- You or members of your community?
- Other programs that utilize energy assistance to identify eligible households?

Comment Period: Open through **Friday, August 7, 2026 at 4:30pm**

Online: https://mn-commerce.formstack.com/forms/eap_feedback

*Use the dropdown option ‘Feedback/comments about the program’ to leave feedback

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Important: Comments are publicly available, except in limited circumstances, consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act.

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in the public hearing (e.g., sign language or large print materials), please contact 651-539-0109 at least one week in advance of the hearing.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-539-1809 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.