

**PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

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Meeting Date: April 12, 2022	[]	Consent	[X]	Regular
	[]	Ordinance	[]	Public Hearing

Department
Submitted By: Community Services
Submitted For: Community Action Program

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I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to:

A) approve the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) HVAC Replacement Program Guidelines; and

B) authorize the County Administrator, or designee, to execute agreements with eligible property owners, and amendments thereto, related certifications, and all other documents necessary to implement the LIHEAP HVAC Replacement Program.

Summary: The Community Services Department (CSD) received \$11,684,535 in LIHEAP funding to assist low-income households in meeting their immediate home energy needs. These funds have historically been used to assist clients with their electricity bills. However, many low-income homeowners have the need to replace their air conditioning units. Replacement of heating/cooling units is an allowable expense under the LIHEAP grant. To meet this need, CSD is implementing the LIHEAP HVAC Replacement Program, beginning with a pilot program for unincorporated areas and expanding to other jurisdictions in FY 2023. The Community Action Program will work with the Division of Senior and Veteran Services for outreach and assistance to seniors who are eligible for this program. CSD expects to assist 100 clients in FY 2022 through this program. **No County match is required.** (Community Action Program) Countywide (HH)

Background and Policy Issues: LIHEAP has been administered by the Community Action Program since 1992 and provides utility assistance and restoration services to individuals and households living in Palm Beach County.

Attachments: LIHEAP HVAC Replacement Program Guidelines

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	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>James Green</i>	3/16/2022
Recommended By	<u>James Green</u> <small>BF34EF22BFDF492...</small>	Date
	Department Director	Date
Approved By:	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>3/30/2022</u>
	Assistant County Administrator	Date

I.

FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Capital Expenditures					
Operating Costs	500,000				
External Revenue	(500,000)				
Program Income (County)					
In-Kind Match (County)					
NET FISCAL IMPACT	0	0			

No. ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)					
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Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes X No
 Does this item include the use of federal funds? Yes X No

Budget Account No.:
 Fund 1009 Dept 145 Unit 1462 Object Var. Program Code Var. Program Period Var.

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

US Department of Health and Human Services, thru the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

DocuSigned by:
Julie Dowe
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C. Departmental Fiscal Review: _____
 Julie Dowe, Director, Financial & Support Svcs.

II.

REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Development and Control Comments:

Lucy Martin 3/22/22
 OFMB *MA* 3-25-22
MA 3-22-22

Ann S. Jacobson 3/29/22
 Contract Development and Control

B. Legal Sufficiency:

Helene C. Dring 3-29-22
 Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

 Department Director

This summary is not to be used as a basis for payment.

LIHEAP Crisis HVAC Replacement Program Guidelines

I. Overview

The Crisis HVAC Replacement Program through the LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) strives to assist low-income Palm Beach County homeowners, whose HVAC system is inoperable, with assistance up to \$5,000, to replace their heating and cooling system. Inoperable systems yield high-energy bills, creating an energy burden to low-income homeowners, who do not have the resources to replace their HVAC system and reduce their energy bill.

II. Eligibility

In order to qualify for this program, potential customers must reside in Palm Beach County, must own and reside in the property, and their total household income must be at or below either 100% State Median Income (SMI) or 150% Federal Poverty Level Guideline (FPLG). SMI will be used to determine eligibility for HH with eight or less members. FPLG will be used to determine eligibility for households (HH) with 9+ members.

III. Crisis Determination

In order to determine possible crisis, potential customers will have to complete an application and disclose that their heating/cooling system is inoperable or non-existing. Household's units must be at least 10 years old, which is the average duration of an HVAC system in Florida. In addition, households will need to provide proof of high electric bills for the most recent three months.

IV. Procedure

The program will collaborate with registered County HVAC vendors. Vendors will be required to complete an inspection of the unit and submit a replacement quote, prior to rendering service. Once services are rendered, the vendor will have the responsibility of submitting an invoice to Palm Beach County and submitting documentation of completed work with respective County offices.