

FY25 HEAT PUBLIC HEARING

Utah Department of Workforce Services
Housing and Community Development Division
Home Energy Assistance Target Program

DATE: Tuesday, June 25, 2024
TIME: 10:00 am – 11:00 am
LOCATION: Olene Walker Building, Room 211 A & B
140 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

The meeting information including agenda, audio recording and any other materials presented can be found at <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/notice/914185.html>

Persons in Attendance:

Mike Murdock/ DWS	April Gardner/ DWS
Lori Page/ DWS	Angie Dewsnap/ Oak City
Sheri Kerr/ DWS	Susan Wright/ BRAG
Michele Kennington/ DWS	Billie Heilesen/ Helper City
Matt Turner/ DWS	Joey Erickson/ Utah Community Action
Jennifer Edwards/ DWS	Jen Groo/ Searle Gas/Sav On Propane
Ashley Trujillo/ DWS	Brittani J/ Dixie Power
Ricky Macias/ Dominion Energy	Stephanie Dobberfuhl/ PacifiCorp
Lt. Kate Combs / Salvation Army	Florence P/ BRAG
Lisa Swertfeger/ Dominion Energy	Kirk Rasband/ United Way
Caren Lopez/ Murray City	Cathy B/ Navajo Tribal Utility Authority
Jennifer Robertson/ Price Utah	Stacey Nielsen/ PacifiCorp
Matt Patterson/ Hurricane city	Ivie Phillips/ UBAOG

Meeting Minutes

1. FY24 HEAT Program Overview – Michael Murdock, HEAT Program Manager
 - Processed over 30,000 applications
 - Approved over 21,000 applications
 - Processed about 1000 crisis applications
 - There are 8 agencies across the State working year-round, processing applications, doing outreach and training and rendering help to as many clients as possible.
 - There are several ways to apply: Online, over the phone, mail in and in person at an agency.
 - We're working with a great network of Vendors
 - If there are any vendors that have not contracted with us to receive funding from the HEAT program, we encourage you to reach out to us and sign a contract with us to get the funding to help the clients in your area that may need help.
2. FY25 Model State Plan – Michael Murdock

- Plan posted for public comment on the DWS Public Notices website
 - It starts October 1st, 2024
 - Items of note:
 - The extra funding we have received in the past few years related to pandemic crisis funding has ended so we did not receive any supplemental or excess funds. As a result, we will be implementing two changes:
 1. The client benefit is decreasing by \$100 (Last year we increased it by \$100 and now we're bringing it back to the previous amount to allow the ability for the funding to help more people.)
 2. There will be a cap of \$2000 on the crisis benefit as there was such a large increase in crisis applications and we need to stretch the funding throughout the year so there are funds available when the need is greatest.
 - We will work with the crisis applicants to get that down to that limit so we can help cover the rest.
3. FY25 Season: 10/1/2024 – 9/30/2025
- Target group applications and outreach.
 - Elderly, disabled, and those with children under the age of six will be targeted and prioritized.
 - We will continue with the extra \$150 benefit for the targeted groups.
 - Agencies will determine the most appropriate times to do outreach and marketing.
 1. Examples: some agencies will have targeted outreach during the hot spring/summer times while other agencies may choose cold winter months based on their region's specific needs.
4. Weatherization Update – Matt Turner, Weatherization Program Manager
- We've weatherized around 400 units so far this year (a bit higher from previous years)
 - We have additional funding and are ramping up to a target of at least 600 units for the next 3-4 years.
 - We're hoping to increase our number of applicants and be able to help a lot of families in need.
 - We get a lot of referrals from the HEAT program and really appreciate everything the HEAT program does to refer somebody to the Weatherization program.
 - There are 3 points I want to call out about qualifying for the weatherization program:
 - If they are eligible for HEAT, they are eligible for Weatherization
 - We do have lower income eligibility limits so if they don't qualify for HEAT, please still send them our way!
 - If they are currently a recipient of Section 8 or other housing assistance programs, they are likely to be eligible for weatherization as well.
5. Open discussion – Q&A
- Question from Lt. Kate Combs with the Salvation Army; she asked regarding the 30,000 applications that have come in so far this year. She wanted to know whether that was more or less than normal or if it was on target for expectation. Mike Murdock answered that the average is 28,000-29,000, so it is increasing and that is happening while the funding is in fact decreasing (with the loss of the pandemic funds) so they're hoping the couple of changes mentioned in agenda item 2 will still allow them to help as many people as possible. Lt. Kate Combs added that she is seeing a similar increase of applicants across the board with the other benefits that Salvation Army helps people with. Both Mike Murdock and Lt. Kate Combs expressed curiosity on whether the increase would continue or stabilize.

Reminders:

6. Public comment on the FY25 LIHEAP State Plan will be available one week prior to the Hearing at: <https://jobs.utah.gov/department/publicnotices.html>. The deadline to submit public comment is 8:00 am, Thursday, July 25, 2024.
 - Address all comments to Michael Murdock, Program Manager, Home Energy Assistance Target (HEAT) Office.

Meeting concluded after 17 minutes

Meeting minutes certified accurate by Janell Quiroz