



Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Board Report

November 29, 2017

Goals

Energy Assistance (EA) October 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017

- 2635 Elderly and/or Disabled individuals obtain the Energy Assistance Grant

Winter Energy Crisis (ECIP) November 2016 - May 2017

- 1400 households will receive Winter Energy Crisis

Summer Energy Crisis (ECIP) June 2016 – September 2017

- 600 Households will receive Summer Energy Crisis
- 20 Households will receive window air conditioners

Annual Report

LIHEAP Statistics:

- 4,012 applications were processed for LIHEAP's Energy Assistance grant, of that 3,393 households were assisted.
- Of the 3,393 household that received Energy Assistance, 2,560 were elderly and/or disabled households.
- 1,700 households received Winter ECIP assistance. Of that, 1,099 vulnerable households were served. (A vulnerable household is defined as having at least one member who is elderly, disabled, or under the age of 5.)
- 1,255 households received Summer ECIP assistance. Of that 809 vulnerable households were served.
- While LIHEAP serves households living at or below 135% of the poverty guideline, the majority of households receiving assistance were at or below 75% of the poverty guideline. In FY17 a family of 2 couldn't exceed the monthly gross income amount of \$1,804. This is \$802 more than what a family of 2 at the 75% poverty line earned. (Please note the average applicant household size in Franklin County was 2.25 while Jefferson County's was 2.33.)

JFCAC receives Keeping Current funding from Ameren to help families pay monthly on their electric utility bill. Keeping Current helps pay off back bills, as well as, reduce monthly costs as long as the participant pays their bill on time each month. To enroll in this program participants are required to pay 1/12 of their total bill. When funding is available LIHEAP is used to help those struggling to pay the 1/12. Those who participate in Keeping Current continue to be eligible for the once a year payment towards their primary source of heat, but because they are required to pay on time each month to receive the credits towards their bill they no longer are in need of ECIP.



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- 101 households participated in the Keeping Current program (76 households were considered vulnerable, and 25 were not).
- Of the 76 households, 10 were elderly, 11 were elderly & disabled, 37 were disabled, 3 were disabled & had at least one child under the age of five, and 15 had at least one child under the age of five.
- 71 KC participants received a \$60 credit on their regular, monthly bill; 15 were receiving a \$90 credit; 5 were receiving a \$35 credit (electric is considered the secondary heat source for these five participants).
- The average arrearage credit was \$41.42.
- The average electric utility payment for KC participants was \$79.77 per month.

Client story:

Frequently when Community Action shares “impact stories” the focus is helping families achieve livable wages in order to achieve self-sufficiency/reliance. However, many of the families served by Community Action live on fixed incomes, and are unable to make changes that will drastically change their circumstances. For these families Community Action is a lifeline that keeps them from sinking further into poverty. Carolyn Bisch is among these families. Carolyn has been a long time client of JFCAC. She is a proud lady that asks only for what she needs, when she needs it. As a single, disabled, mother providing care for her adult daughter, Cierra, who is unable to live on her own, Carolyn is also a strong advocate for her family. Once a year she applies for the LIHEAP Energy Assistance grant. Upon occasion when the seasons run hotter/colder than usual, or when she has unexpected expenses she will request ECIP assistance as well; however, most of the time she just utilizes the once a year payment to help make ends meet. Upon learning of an opportunity in which she could gain access to the Housing Choice Voucher Program by completing classes through JFCAC’s Community Services she jumped at the chance. Despite lacking personal transportation, and the challenges of transporting Cierra and her wheelchair, Carolyn and Cierra were able to utilize public transportation to attend three months of classes (Step Up to Leadership and life skills) to achieve their goal. Through these classes Carolyn obtained a housing voucher, which helped decrease the amount of income going towards safe, affordable housing. This in turn helped her to decrease the amount of assistance she needed through LIHEAP, and allowed for her to be more prepared for unexpected expenses. Most important by utilizing these services Carolyn is better equipped to care for Cierra so that she may continue to live independently.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Forsys".

Heather Forsys, CCAP
Community Services & Energy Assistance Director



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