

Priority Points and Benefit Levels Matrices

Income Based on Family Size (35 Point Maximum)

% of Federal Poverty Guidelines	Points
0-50%	35 points
51-75%	30 points
76-100%	25 points
101-125%	20 points
126-150%	15 points

Energy Burden (20 point maximum)

% of Income Used for Home Energy Cost	Points
14% and higher	20 points
9-13%	15 points
4-8%	10 points
1-3%	5 points

Vulnerable Household Members (60 point maximum)

Household with:	Points
Elderly (70 years or older)	15 points
Elderly (60-69 years)	10 points
Disabled, self-declared	10 points
Children under 6 years of age	10 points
Adult Protective Services (APS) Referral	10 points
Six (6) or more persons	5 points

Veteran or Active Military	10 points
----------------------------	-----------

Benefit Levels

Total Points	Benefit Amount
0-50 points	\$600.00
55-75 points	\$800.00
80-110 points	\$1,000.00

Benefit levels are established by THDA and used by all LIHEAP agencies in the State of Tennessee. Benefit levels must be established in ranges as indicated in the chart above. Benefit levels are uniform statewide.

The benefit levels for Energy Assistance (Heating and Cooling) and for Crisis Assistance must be included in the agency’s operational plan.

Client benefits must be correctly distinguished between heating and cooling. The term **heating** is applied to assistance during October through May. **Cooling** is assistance applied during June through September.

To determine which households receive priority in assistance when sufficient funds are not available to serve all households with the same number of points, the applications will be ranked based on the energy burden calculated. Those households with the highest energy burdens are to receive assistance first.