

SUSAN MARSHALL
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES,
DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Alaska's State/Tribal Agreements

- LIHEAP is currently administered in Alaska by the State of Alaska and thirteen tribes:

Aleutian Pribilof Island Association	Kuskokwim Native Association
Association of Village Council Presidents	Orutsaramiut Native Council
Bristol Bay Native Association	Seldovia Village Tribe*
Cook Inlet Tribal Council	Tanana Chiefs Conference
Chuathbaluk Traditional Council*	Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority
Kenaitze Indian Tribe	Yakutat Tlingit Tribe*
Kodiak Area Native Association	

*Individual tribe versus tribal organization that represents numerous tribes

State/Tribal Relationships

- The thirteen tribes and Native organizations serve approximately 41% of the state.
- Tribes receive direct funding from ACF to administer LIHEAP.
- Tribes receive grants from the state to administer the Alaska Affordable Heating Program (AKAHP). The state program mirrors LIHEAP with the only difference being that AKAHP was created to serve households with income between 151 and 225% of Alaska's federal poverty income guidelines.
- The state and Native organizations have developed a positive, working relationship and communicate on a frequent basis.

Why Have A Memorandum of Agreement With Tribes?

- Reduces chances of duplication of benefits (families applying with both entities)
- Provides a framework/outlines which agency/organization is serving residents in a community
 - Some tribes serve all residents within a community
 - Some tribes serve only Alaskan Natives and American Indians in those communities
 - SOA computer system is programmed to reject applicants served by tribes
- Identifies duties of each entity

Why Have A Memorandum of Agreement With Tribes?

- Tribes have a better understanding of their members' needs and situations
 - Tribal staff in villages assists with completing paperwork, obtaining documentation, etc.
 - Tribal staff can assist when there is a language barrier
 - Tribes are aware of environment, weather or other conditions impacting households and their winter heating needs
- Guarantees that more vulnerable residents are being identified and assisted.
 - Three years ago BBNA began administering the program and we saw a large increase in the number of households participating
 - They do outreach for heating assistance through all the programs they offer

How Allocations Work in Alaska

- If an individual tribe would like a tribal organization to administer their LIHEAP, the tribe must complete a resolution indicating that they want said tribal organization to administer the program for their members.
- Resolutions are submitted with the tribe's LIHEAP Plan.
- The resolutions, along with the Memorandum of Agreements (MAO's), delineate who is being served by each entity. Some Native organizations serve all residents within a community regardless of ethnicity and others serve only their target populations.
- The resolutions and MOA's are sent to DC to support the percentage of funding ACF distributes to each administrator in the state.
- Allocations rarely change unless an individual tribe decides to have someone else administer their program or the percentages are reviewed. They were last reviewed in 2005 and are now being revisited.

How Allocations Are Determined in Alaska

- Allocations are based upon a comparable benefit. This means we look at how much money the tribes would need to pay a benefit comparable to what is paid by the state (even if they use a different formula to award and distribute benefits.)
- Each tribe provides a download of their cases including:
 - Case Number
 - Community
 - Fuel Type
 - Household Income Level
 - Dwelling Type/Size
 - If there is an Elder, Disabled or Child Under 6 Years of Age in the Household
- The formula used by the state to determine benefits is:
 - Community Heating Points * Dwelling Factor * Income Factor + Vulnerable Population Point (if applicable)
* \$ per point (\$150 per point in FY 2013 and FY 2014).

Example of Benefit Calculation

	Example 1		Benefit calculation:
Step 1.	Community, Fuel	Anchorage, N Gas	4 points
Step 2.	Dwelling	3 bedroom house	4 points x 1.3 = 5.2 points
Step 3.	Household Size, Income	4, \$2,530	101-125% of poverty = 60%
			5.2 points x 0.6 = 3.12 points
Step 4.	Household includes elderly, disabled or child under age 6	No	N/A
Step 5.	Heating points of 2.0 or more	Yes	3.12 points
Step 6.	Round points		Rounded = 3 points
Step 7.	Multiply by benefit rate		3 points x 150 = \$450
	Example 2		Benefit calculation:
Step 1.	Community, Fuel	Fairbanks, Oil	14 points
Step 2.	Dwelling	2 bedrm, 4+unit bldg	14 points x 0.7 = 9.8 points
Step 3.	Household Size, Income	2, \$1,975	126-150% of poverty = 50%
			9.8 points x 0.5 = 4.9 points
Step 4.	Household includes elderly, disabled or child under age 6	Yes	4.9 points + 1 = 5.9 points
Step 5.	Heating points of 2.0 or more	Yes	5.9 points
Step 6.	Round points		Rounded = 6 points
Step 7.	Multiply by benefit rate		6 points x \$150 = \$900

Community Listing & Community Heating Points

"*" Indicates the tribe serves Alaska Native/American Indians only (both programs)

"**" Seldovia - state will serve all residents for AKHAP and non-Natives for LIHEAP)

"0" Indicates the tribe serves all residents for both programs

"+" Indicates the State serves all residents for AKHAP & tribes serve all residents for LIHEAP

All remaining communities served by the state of Alaska for both programs

Zip Code	Community Name	Served By	Points Oil/NGas
99502	Adak (Station)	/	06/00/
99615	Akhiok	*/KANA	08/00/
99551	Akiachak	0/AVCP	21/00/
99552	Akiak	0/AVCP	21/00/
99553	Akutan	*/APIA	11/00/
99554	Alakanuk	0/AVCP	21/00/
99790	Alatna	0/TCC	27/00/
99555	Aleknagik	0/BBNA	13/00/
99695	Alexander Creek	/	07/00/
99720	Allakaket	0/TCC	27/00/

How Allocations Are Determined in Alaska

- Using this data we rework each tribe's caseload benefits (using formulas in an Excel spreadsheet) to determine what the payment would be under state rules.
- All cases are added up, by community.
- Each community's total is compared to the state total to get a percentage per community.
- If more than one group administers in a community, the community's percentage is prorated based upon the number of households served.
- Our Memorandum of Agreement then spells out the percentage of the state served by the specific tribal organization.

Data We Share

- The tribes also administer our state-funded, higher income program so we work together on a frequent basis. We have quarterly telephone meetings to discuss state and federal funding, program changes, outreach, challenges, and best practices.
- Every October the tribes provide the State with an annual summary of households served and dollars awarded, by community. These figures are used to report program statistics to legislators, state departments, Native organizations, and the Governor's Office.
- Tribes have been offered read-only access to the state's eligibility information system so they can verify benefits and don't have to pend for that information. This requires a separate, different MOA.
- Information about households we've each served to prevent a household from receiving duplicate benefits.

Where Do We Begin?

Alaska is presently in the process of reviewing our percentages.

We will:

- Look at the census figures provided by ACF to determine the number of potential households the tribe will serve.
 - Will they serve just their own members or a whole geographic region?
- Run each tribe's database they send us at the end of FY 2013 using our comparable benefit calculation to determine how much money we would have paid out to each of their clients had they applied with the state. Then we compare their total to the statewide total (all tribes and the state). For example, XYZ Tribe would have awarded \$300,000 in benefits to folks in a particular area based upon the state formula. This amount is compared to the total amount awarded statewide to figure out the percentage of residents served.

Where Do We Begin?

- This does require the cooperation of all entities that administer in the state. In order to compare a part to the whole, you need to have all the parts reporting.
- After we have these figures I will distribute the information to each respective tribe.
- We plan to have a teleconference to:
 - Review the stats
 - Discuss potential future growth
 - Discuss admin costs and how to compensate agencies in areas with low community heating points who receive less funding based upon the comparable benefit computation.
 - Come to an agreement on new percentages.
- I anticipate the new percentages and MOA's will be in place for FY 2015.

Questions?

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STATE-TRIBE AGREEMENTS CHECKLIST

State-Tribe Agreements should include:

- Duration of Agreement
- How tribal households will be determined, including area and population to be served by tribes
- How tribal allocation will be determined (e.g. fixed amount, fixed percentage, household-count percentage)
- Data that state and tribe will share, and frequency of exchange
- Process for avoiding duplicate benefits
- Process for resolving disputes

MORE INFORMATION ON STATE-TRIBE AGREEMENTS

- **Examples of State-Tribal Agreements**

<http://www.liheap.ncat.org/Directors/Agreements/tribeagree.htm>

- **Tribal Manual Section on State-Tribe Agreements**

<http://www.liheap.ncat.org/Tribes/directfund.doc> (page B-5 - “Tribe/State Agreements”)

- **Contacts for Additional Questions**

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Administration for Children and Families

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/resource/division-of-energy-assistance-federal-staff>

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- Wednesday, July 31, 2013 at 1:00pm EST
- Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 1:00pm EST