

## DETAILED MODEL PLAN (LIHEAP)

**Program Name:** Low Income Home Energy Assistance

**Grantee Name:** Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

**Report Name:** DETAILED MODEL PLAN (LIHEAP)

**Report Period:** 10/01/2022 to 09/30/2023

**Report Status:** Submission Accepted by CO

### Report Sections

1. ***Mandatory Grant Application SF-424***
2. ***Section 1 - Program Components***
3. ***Section 2 - HEATING ASSISTANCE***
4. ***Section 3 - COOLING ASSISTANCE***
5. ***Section 4 - CRISIS ASSISTANCE***
6. ***Section 5 - WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE***
7. ***Section 6 - Outreach, 2605(b)(3) - Assurance 3, 2605(c)(3)(A)***
8. ***Section 7 - Coordination, 2605(b)(4) - Assurance 4***
9. ***Section 8 - Agency Designation,, 2605(b)(6) - Assurance 6***
10. ***Section 9 - Energy Suppliers,, 2605(b)(7) - Assurance 7***
11. ***Section 10 - Program, Fiscal Monitoring, and Audit, 2605(b)(10) - Assurance 10***
12. ***Section 11 - Timely and Meaningful Public Participation, , 2605(b)(12) - Assurance 12, 2605(c)(2)***
13. ***Section 12 - Fair Hearings,2605(b)(13) - Assurance 13***
14. ***Section 13 - Reduction of home energy needs,2605(b)(16) - Assurance 16***
15. ***Section 14 - Leveraging Incentive Program ,2607A***
16. ***Section 15 - Training***
17. ***Section 16 - Performance Goals and Measures, 2605(b)***
18. ***Section 17 - Program Integrity, 2605(b)(10)***
19. ***Section 18: Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters***
20. ***Section 19: Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements***
21. ***Section 20: Certification Regarding Lobbying***
22. ***Assurances***
23. ***Plan Attachments***

## Mandatory Grant Application SF-424

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

August 1987, revised 05/92,02/95,03/96,12/98,11/01  
OMB Clearance No.: 0970-0075  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2023

### LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(LIHEAP) MODEL PLAN SF - 424 - MANDATORY

<b>* 1.a. Type of Submission:</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Plan	<b>* 1.b. Frequency:</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Annual	<b>* 1.c. Consolidated Application/ Plan/Funding Request?</b>  <b>Explanation:</b>	<b>* 1.d. Version:</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Initial <input type="radio"/> Resubmission <input type="radio"/> Revision <input type="radio"/> Update
		<b>2. Date Received:</b>	<b>State Use Only:</b>
		<b>3. Applicant Identifier:</b>	
		<b>4a. Federal Entity Identifier:</b>	<b>5. Date Received By State:</b>
		<b>4b. Federal Award Identifier:</b>	<b>6. State Application Identifier:</b>

**7. APPLICANT INFORMATION**

<b>* a. Legal Name:</b> Cherokee Nation			
<b>* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):</b> 730757033		<b>* c. Organizational DUNS:</b> 077345494	
<b>* d. Address:</b>			
<b>* Street 1:</b>	P.O. BOX 1669	<b>Street 2:</b>	
<b>* City:</b>	TAHLEQUAH	<b>County:</b>	Cherokee
<b>* State:</b>	OK	<b>Province:</b>	
<b>* Country:</b>	United States	<b>* Zip / Postal Code:</b>	74465-1669

**e. Organizational Unit:**

<b>Department Name:</b> Human Services	<b>Division Name:</b> Family Assistance
---	--

**f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:**

<b>Prefix:</b>	<b>* First Name:</b> Janet	<b>Middle Name:</b>	<b>* Last Name:</b> Ward
<b>Suffix:</b>	<b>Title:</b> Manager	<b>Organizational Affiliation:</b> Cherokee Nation Human Services	
<b>* Telephone Number:</b> (918)453-5327	<b>Fax Number:</b> (918)458-6216	<b>* Email:</b> janet-ward@cherokee.org	

**\* 8a. TYPE OF APPLICANT:**  
J: Indian/Native American Tribal Government (Other than Federally Recognized)

**b. Additional Description:**

**\* 9. Name of Federal Agency:**

	<b>Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:</b>	<b>CFDA Title:</b>
<b>10. CFDA Numbers and Titles</b>	93.568	Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

**11. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project**  
Low Income Heating & Cooling Assistance


**12. Areas Affected by Funding:**  
Cherokee Nation 14 County Reservation

**13. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:**

<b>* a. Applicant</b> 02	<b>b. Program/Project:</b> OK-002
-----------------------------	--------------------------------------

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

<b>14. FUNDING PERIOD:</b>	<b>15. ESTIMATED FUNDING:</b>
----------------------------	-------------------------------

<b>a. Start Date:</b> 10/01/2022	<b>b. End Date:</b> 09/30/2023	<b>* a. Federal (\$):</b> \$0	<b>b. Match (\$):</b> \$0
<b>* 16. IS SUBMISSION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?</b>			
a. This submission was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372			
Process for Review on :			
b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by State for review.			
c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.			
<b>* 17. Is The Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt?</b>			
<input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO			
<b>Explanation:</b>			
18. By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001) <b>**I Agree</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.			
<b>18a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official</b> Anna Knight, Authorized Representative		<b>18c. Telephone (area code, number and extension)</b>	
		<b>18d. Email Address</b> grantsubmissions@cherokee.org	
<b>18b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official</b> 		<b>18e. Date Report Submitted (Month, Day, Year)</b> 09/01/2022	
<b>Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.</b>			

## Section 1 - Program Components

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

August 1987, revised 05/92,02/95,03/96,12/98,11/01  
OMB Clearance No.: 0970-0075  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2023

### LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(LIHEAP) MODEL PLAN SF - 424 - MANDATORY

Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Office of Community Services  
Washington, DC 20201

August 1987, revised 05/92, 02/95, 03/96, 12/98, 11/01  
OMB Approval No. 0970-0075  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2023

THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) Use of this model plan is optional. However, the information requested is required in order to receive a Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) grant in years in which the grantee is not permitted to file an abbreviated plan. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

### Section 1 Program Components

Program Components, 2605(a), 2605(b)(1) - Assurance 1, 2605(c)(1)(C)

1.1 Check which components you will operate under the LIHEAP program. (Note: You must provide information for each component designated here as requested elsewhere in this plan.)		Dates of Operation	
		Start Date	End Date
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Heating assistance	10/03/2022	12/30/2022
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cooling assistance	06/01/2023	08/31/2023
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Crisis assistance	12/01/2022	09/30/2023
<input type="checkbox"/>	Weatherization assistance		

Provide further explanation for the dates of operation, if necessary

Estimated Funding Allocation, 2604(C), 2605(k)(1), 2605(b)(9), 2605(b)(16) - Assurances 9 and 16

1.2 Estimate what amount of available LIHEAP funds will be used for each component that you will operate: The total of all percentages must add up to 100%.	Percentage ( % )
Heating assistance	45.00%
Cooling assistance	31.00%
Crisis assistance	7.00%
Weatherization assistance	0.00%
Carryover to the following federal fiscal year	7.00%
Administrative and planning costs	10.00%
Services to reduce home energy needs including needs assessment (Assurance 16)	0.00%
Used to develop and implement leveraging activities	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Alternate Use of Crisis Assistance Funds, 2605(c)(1)(C)

1.3 The funds reserved for winter crisis assistance that have not been expended by March 15 will be reprogrammed to:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Heating assistance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cooling assistance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Weatherization assistance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify:)

**Categorical Eligibility, 2605(b)(2)(A) - Assurance 2, 2605(c)(1)(A), 2605(b)(8A) - Assurance 8**

**1.4 Do you consider households categorically eligible if one household member receives one of the following categories of benefits in the left column below?**  Yes  No

**If you answered "Yes" to question 1.4, you must complete the table below and answer questions 1.5 and 1.6.**

	Heating	Cooling	Crisis	Weatherization
TANF	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
SSI	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
SNAP	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Means-tested Veterans Programs	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

	Program Name	Heating	Cooling	Crisis	Weatherization
Other(Specify) 1		<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

**1.5 Do you automatically enroll households without a direct annual application?**  Yes  No

**If Yes, explain:**

**1.6 How do you ensure there is no difference in the treatment of categorically eligible households from those not receiving other public assistance when determining eligibility and benefit amounts?**

**SNAP Nominal Payments**

**1.7a Do you allocate LIHEAP funds toward a nominal payment for SNAP households?**  Yes  No

**If you answered "Yes" to question 1.7a, you must provide a response to questions 1.7b, 1.7c, and 1.7d.**

**1.7b Amount of Nominal Assistance:** \$0.00

**1.7c Frequency of Assistance**

Once Per Year

Once every five years

Other - Describe:

**1.7d How do you confirm that the household receiving a nominal payment has an energy cost or need?**

**Determination of Eligibility - Countable Income**

**1.8. In determining a household's income eligibility for LIHEAP, do you use gross income or net income ?**

Gross Income

Net Income

**1.9. Select all the applicable forms of countable income used to determine a household's income eligibility for LIHEAP**

Wages

Self - Employment Income

Contract Income

Payments from mortgage or Sales Contracts

Unemployment insurance

Strike Pay

Social Security Administration (SSA ) benefits

<input type="checkbox"/> Including MediCare	<input type="checkbox"/> Excluding MediCare deduction
---	---

<input type="checkbox"/>	deduction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Supplemental Security Income (SSI )	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Retirement / pension benefits	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Assistance benefits	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) benefits	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Loans that need to be repaid	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cash gifts	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Savings account balance	
<input type="checkbox"/>	One-time lump-sum payments, such as rebates/credits, winnings from lotteries, refund deposits, etc.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jury duty compensation	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rental income	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Income from employment through Workforce Investment Act (WIA)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Income from work study programs	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alimony	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Child support	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interest, dividends, or royalties	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissions	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Legal settlements	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Insurance payments made directly to the insured	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Insurance payments made specifically for the repayment of a bill, debt, or estimate	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Veterans Administration (VA) benefits	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Earned income of a child under the age of 18	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Balance of retirement, pension, or annuity accounts where funds cannot be withdrawn without a penalty.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Income tax refunds	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stipends from senior companion programs, such as VISTA	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Funds received by household for the care of a foster child	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ameri-Corp Program payments for living allowances, earnings, and in-kind aid	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reimbursements (for mileage, gas, lodging, meals, etc.)	

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Other</b> Each household that has working income, such as wages and self employment income will receive a \$240 deduction when calculating income.
<b>If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.</b>	

## Section 2 - HEATING ASSISTANCE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

August 1987, revised 05/92,02/95,03/96,12/98,11/01  
OMB Clearance No.: 0970-0075  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2023

### LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(LIHEAP) MODEL PLAN SF - 424 - MANDATORY

### Section 2 - Heating Assistance

**Eligibility, 2605(b)(2) - Assurance 2**

**2.1 Designate the income eligibility threshold used for the heating component:**

Add	Household size	Eligibility Guideline	Eligibility Threshold
1	All Household Sizes	HHS Poverty Guidelines	150.00%

**2.2 Do you have additional eligibility requirements for HEATING ASSISTANCE?**  Yes  No

**2.3 Check the appropriate boxes below and describe the policies for each.**

**Do you require an Assets test ?**  Yes  No

**Do you have additional/differing eligibility policies for:**

- Renters?**  Yes  No
- Renters Living in subsidized housing ?**  Yes  No
- Renters with utilities included in the rent ?**  Yes  No

**Do you give priority in eligibility to:**

- Elderly?**  Yes  No
- Disabled?**  Yes  No
- Young children?**  Yes  No
- Households with high energy burdens ?**  Yes  No
- Other?**  Yes  No

**Explanations of policies for each "yes" checked above:**

Head of household or spouse must be of Indian descent.

Applicants must live within the reservation of the Cherokee Nation.

Applicants 60 years of age or older, disabled and/or handicapped will be given first priority. Households with small children will be given second priority. All other households will be assisted as funds permit.

**Determination of Benefits 2605(b)(5) - Assurance 5, 2605(c)(1)(B)**

**2.4 Describe how you prioritize the provision of heating assistance to vulnerable populations, e.g., benefit amounts, early application periods, etc.**

Head of household or spouse must be of Indian descent.

Applicants 60 years of age or older, disabled and/or handicapped will be given first priority. Households with small children will be given second priority.

Benefit amount is based on number in household, income and type of heating source.

Applications will be mailed to the elderly and disabled clients ages 60 and younger who received LIHEAP from Cherokee Nation the previous year. They will complete their applications and return them to Cherokee Nation. If they have trouble filling the application out they can go to the office nearest them and an advocate will help them complete the application. Letters will be sent to the elderly and disabled ages 60 and older who received LIHEAP from Cherokee Nation the previous year scheduling them an appointment. If they need a home visit one will be scheduled.

**2.5 Check the variables you use to determine your benefit levels. (Check all that apply):**

- Income
- Family (household) size
- Home energy cost or need:
- Fuel type



<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate/region		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual bill		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dwelling type		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy burden (% of income spent on home energy)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy need		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other - Describe:		
Benefit Levels, 2605(b)(5) - Assurance 5, 2605(c)(1)(B)			
2.6 Describe estimated benefit levels for the fiscal year for which this plan applies			
Minimum Benefit	\$150	Maximum Benefit	\$480
2.7 Do you provide in-kind (e.g., blankets, space heaters) and/or other forms of benefits? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
If yes, describe.			
Applicants 60 years old or disabled participants will be eligible for blanket.			
<p><b>If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.</b></p>			

### Section 3 - COOLING ASSISTANCE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
 ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

August 1987, revised 05/92,02/95,03/96,12/98,11/01  
 OMB Clearance No.: 0970-0075  
 Expiration Date: 12/31/2023

## LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(LIHEAP) MODEL PLAN SF - 424 - MANDATORY

### Section 3 - Cooling Assistance

Eligibility, 2605(c)(1)(A), 2605 (b)(2) - Assurance 2

**3.1 Designate The income eligibility threshold used for the Cooling component:**

Add	Household size	Eligibility Guideline	Eligibility Threshold
1	All Household Sizes	HHS Poverty Guidelines	150.00%

**3.2 Do you have additional eligibility requirements for COOLING ASSISTANCE?**  Yes  No

**3.3 Check the appropriate boxes below and describe the policies for each.**

Do you require an Assets test ?  Yes  No

Do you have additional/differing eligibility policies for:

- Renters?  Yes  No
- Renters Living in subsidized housing ?  Yes  No
- Renters with utilities included in the rent ?  Yes  No

Do you give priority in eligibility to:

- Elderly?  Yes  No
- Disabled?  Yes  No
- Young children?  Yes  No
- Households with high energy burdens ?  Yes  No
- Other?  Yes  No

Explanations of policies for each "yes" checked above:

Head of household or spouse must be of Indian decent.  
 Applicants must live in within the reservation of the Cherokee Nation.  
 Applicants 60 years of age or older. Disabled and/or handicapped will be given first priority. Households with small children will be given second priority. All other households will be assisted if funds permit.

**3.4 Describe how you prioritize the provision of cooling assistance to vulnerable populations, e.g., benefit amounts, early application periods, etc.**

The elderly and disabled who received heating assistance during the winter will be sent a letter requesting a copy of their electric bill to verify account information. Once a copy of participant's electric bill has been received a payment will be processed. Benefit payment amount is based upon how much funding is available.

**Determination of Benefits 2605(b)(5) - Assurance 5, 2605(c)(1)(B)**

**3.5 Check the variables you use to determine your benefit levels. (Check all that apply):**

- Income
- Family (household) size
- Home energy cost or need:
  - Fuel type
  - Climate/region

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual bill			
<input type="checkbox"/> Dwelling type			
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy burden (% of income spent on home energy)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy need			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other - Describe:			
Benefit Levels, 2605(b)(5) - Assurance 5, 2605(c)(1)(B)			
3.6 Describe estimated benefit levels for the fiscal year for which this plan applies			
Minimum Benefit	\$195	Maximum Benefit	\$390
3.7 Do you provide in-kind (e.g., fans, air conditioners) and/or other forms of benefits? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
If yes, describe.			
<p>If an individual is elderly or disabled and has no working central air or no air conditioning unit we can use LIHEAP funds to provide a air conditioner. However they would need to supply our office with a medical care provider statement that states they medically require refrigerated air.</p>			
<p>If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.</p>			

## Section 4 - CRISIS ASSISTANCE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

August 1987, revised 05/92,02/95,03/96,12/98,11/01  
OMB Clearance No.: 0970-0075  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2023

### LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(LIHEAP) MODEL PLAN SF - 424 - MANDATORY

#### Section 4: CRISIS ASSISTANCE

**Eligibility - 2604(c), 2605(c)(1)(A)**

**4.1 Designate the income eligibility threshold used for the crisis component**

Add	Household size	Eligibility Guideline	Eligibility Threshold
1	All Household Sizes	HHS Poverty Guidelines	150.00%

**4.2 Provide your LIHEAP program's definition for determining a crisis.**

Any energy related emergency which could result in the loss of a LIHEAP eligible household heating/cooling capabilities or an appliance deficiency which directly effects energy conservation. Emergencies are defined as burn-out, natural disasters, shut-off notices, utility deposits, severe need of heating/cooling appliances, fans, blankets, etc.

**4.3 What constitutes a life-threatening crisis?**

Imminent harm to life or property will occur within 18 hours if the energy crisis is not resolved.

**Crisis Requirement, 2604(c)**

**4.4 Within how many hours do you provide an intervention that will resolve the energy crisis for eligible households? 48Hours**

**4.5 Within how many hours do you provide an intervention that will resolve the energy crisis for eligible households in life-threatening situations? 18Hours**

**Crisis Eligibility, 2605(c)(1)(A)**

**4.6 Do you have additional eligibility requirements for CRISIS ASSISTANCE?**  Yes  No

**4.7 Check the appropriate boxes below and describe the policies for each**

**Do you require an Assets test ?**  Yes  No

**Do you give priority in eligibility to :**

**Elderly?**  Yes  No

**Disabled?**  Yes  No

**Young Children?**  Yes  No

**Households with high energy burdens?**  Yes  No

**Other?**  Yes  No

**In Order to receive crisis assistance:**

**Must the household have received a shut-off notice or have a near empty tank?**  Yes  No

**Must the household have been shut off or have an empty tank?**  Yes  No

**Must the household have exhausted their regular heating benefit?**  Yes  No

**Must renters with heating costs included in their rent have received an eviction notice ?**  Yes  No

**Must heating/cooling be medically necessary?**  Yes  No

**Must the household have non-working heating or cooling equipment?**  Yes  No

**Other?**  Yes  No

**Do you have additional / differing eligibility policies for:**

**Renters?**  Yes  No

<b>Renters living in subsidized housing?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		
<b>Renters with utilities included in the rent?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		
<b>Explanations of policies for each "yes" checked above:</b>			
<p>At least one of the household members must be of Indian decent.</p> <p>Applicants must live within the reservation of the Cherokee Nation.</p> <p>Applicants 60 years of age or older, disabled, and /or handicapped will be given first priority. Households with small children will be given second priority. All other households will be assisted as funds permit.</p>			
<b>Determination of Benefits</b>			
<b>4.8 How do you handle crisis situations?</b>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Separate component		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fast Track		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other - Describe:		
<b>4.9 If you have a separate component, how do you determine crisis assistance benefits?</b>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amount to resolve the crisis.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other - Describe:		
<b>Crisis Requirements, 2604(c)</b>			
<b>4.10 Do you accept applications for energy crisis assistance at sites that are geographically accessible to all households in the area to be served?</b>			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Explain.			
<p>Cherokee Nation has field offices located throughout the reservation. There are other sites available by appointment only. Cherokee Nation's main office is located at the Cherokee Nation complex in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.</p>			
<b>4.11 Do you provide individuals who are physically disabled the means to:</b>			
<b>Submit applications for crisis benefits without leaving their homes?</b>			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No If No, explain.			
<b>Travel to the sites at which applications for crisis assistance are accepted?</b>			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No If No, explain.			
<b>If you answered "No" to both options in question 4.11, please explain alternative means of intake to those who are homebound or physically disabled?</b>			
<b>Benefit Levels, 2605(c)(1)(B)</b>			
<b>4.12 Indicate the maximum benefit for each type of crisis assistance offered.</b>			
Winter Crisis	\$0.00 maximum benefit		
Summer Crisis	\$0.00 maximum benefit		
Year-round Crisis	\$500.00 maximum benefit		
<b>4.13 Do you provide in-kind (e.g. blankets, space heaters, fans) and/or other forms of benefits?</b>			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No If yes, Describe			
<p>If a LIHEAP participant has no working central heat and air or no air conditioner Cherokee Nation can provide a heater and/or air conditioner. Cherokee Nation does give a blanket to all eligible elderly and disabled participants.</p>			
<b>4.14 Do you provide for equipment repair or replacement using crisis funds?</b>			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
<b>If you answered "Yes" to question 4.14, you must complete question 4.15.</b>			
<b>4.15 Check appropriate boxes below to indicate type(s) of assistance provided.</b>			
	Winter Crisis	Summer Crisis	Year-round Crisis
Heating system repair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heating system replacement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cooling system repair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cooling system replacement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood stove purchase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pellet stove purchase	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Solar panel(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utility poles / gas line hook-ups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**4.16 Do any of the utility vendors you work with enforce a moratorium on shut offs?**

Yes  No

**If you responded "Yes" to question 4.16, you must respond to question 4.17.**

**4.17 Describe the terms of the moratorium and any special dispensation received by LIHEAP clients during or after the moratorium period.**

LIHEAP clients are treated like all other clients. Any client with a medical form on file with their utility company or when the temperature is below freezing or the heat index is above 100 degree will not be shut-off.

**If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.**

## Section 5 - WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

August 1987, revised 05/92,02/95,03/96,12/98,11/01  
OMB Clearance No.: 0970-0075  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2023

### LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(LIHEAP) MODEL PLAN SF - 424 - MANDATORY

#### Section 5: WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE

Eligibility, 2605(c)(1)(A), 2605(b)(2) - Assurance 2

5.1 Designate the income eligibility threshold used for the Weatherization component

Add	Household Size	Eligibility Guideline	Eligibility Threshold
1			0.00%

5.2 Do you enter into an interagency agreement to have another government agency administer a WEATHERIZATION component?  Yes  No

5.3 If yes, name the agency.

5.4 Is there a separate monitoring protocol for weatherization?  Yes  No

#### WEATHERIZATION - Types of Rules

5.5 Under what rules do you administer LIHEAP weatherization? (Check only one.)

- Entirely under LIHEAP (not DOE) rules
- Entirely under DOE WAP (not LIHEAP) rules
- Mostly under LIHEAP rules with the following DOE WAP rule(s) where LIHEAP and WAP rules differ (Check all that apply):
  - Income Threshold
  - Weatherization of entire multi-family housing structure is permitted if at least 66% of units (50% in 2- & 4-unit buildings) are eligible units or will become eligible within 180 days
  - Weatherize shelters temporarily housing primarily low income persons (excluding nursing homes, prisons, and similar institutional care facilities).
  - Other - Describe:
- Mostly under DOE WAP rules, with the following LIHEAP rule(s) where LIHEAP and WAP rules differ (Check all that apply.)
  - Income Threshold
  - Weatherization not subject to DOE WAP maximum statewide average cost per dwelling unit.
  - Weatherization measures are not subject to DOE Savings to Investment Ratio (SIR ) standards.
  - Other - Describe:

Eligibility, 2605(b)(5) - Assurance 5

5.6 Do you require an assets test?  Yes  No

5.7 Do you have additional/differing eligibility policies for :

Renters	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Renters living in subsidized housing?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No

5.8 Do you give priority in eligibility to:

Elderly?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Disabled?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Young Children?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
House holds with high energy burdens?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Other?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No

If you selected "Yes" for any of the options in questions 5.6, 5.7, or 5.8, you must provide further explanation of these policies in the text field below.

**Benefit Levels**

5.9 Do you have a maximum LIHEAP weatherization benefit/expenditure per household?  Yes  No

5.10 If yes, what is the maximum? \$0

**Types of Assistance, 2605(c)(1), (B) & (D)**

5.11 What LIHEAP weatherization measures do you provide ? (Check all categories that apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Weatherization needs assessments/audits	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy related roof repair
<input type="checkbox"/> Caulking and insulation	<input type="checkbox"/> Major appliance Repairs
<input type="checkbox"/> Storm windows	<input type="checkbox"/> Major appliance replacement
<input type="checkbox"/> Furnace/heating system modifications/ repairs	<input type="checkbox"/> Windows/sliding glass doors
<input type="checkbox"/> Furnace replacement	<input type="checkbox"/> Doors
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooling system modifications/ repairs	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Heater
<input type="checkbox"/> Water conservation measures	<input type="checkbox"/> Cooling system replacement
<input type="checkbox"/> Compact florescent light bulbs	<input type="checkbox"/> Other - Describe:

**If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.**



**Section 6 - Outreach, 2605(b)(3) - Assurance 3, 2605(c)(3)(A)**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

August 1987, revised 05/92,02/95,03/96,12/98,11/01  
OMB Clearance No.: 0970-0075  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2023

**LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(LIHEAP)  
MODEL PLAN  
SF - 424 - MANDATORY**

**Section 6: Outreach, 2605(b)(3) - Assurance 3, 2605(c)(3)(A)**

6.1 Select all outreach activities that you conduct that are designed to assure that eligible households are made aware of all LIHEAP assistance available:

Place posters/flyers in local and county social service offices, offices of aging, Social Security offices, VA, etc.

Publish articles in local newspapers or broadcast media announcements.

Include inserts in energy vendor billings to inform individuals of the availability of all types of LIHEAP assistance.

Mass mailing(s) to prior-year LIHEAP recipients.

Inform low income applicants of the availability of all types of LIHEAP assistance at application intake for other low-income programs.

Execute interagency agreements with other low-income program offices to perform outreach to target groups.

Other (specify):

Place posters/flyers in Cherokee Nation 14 senior nutrition sites, in Family Assistance field offices and at Cherokee Nation food distribution offices within the Cherokee Nation reservation.

**If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.**

**Section 7 - Coordination, 2605(b)(4) - Assurance 4**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

August 1987, revised 05/92,02/95,03/96,12/98,11/01  
OMB Clearance No.: 0970-0075  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2023

**LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(LIHEAP)  
MODEL PLAN  
SF - 424 - MANDATORY**

**Section 7: Coordination, 2605(b)(4) - Assurance 4**

7.1 Describe how you will ensure that the LIHEAP program is coordinated with other programs available to low-income households (TANF, SSI, WAP, etc.).

<input type="checkbox"/>	Joint application for multiple programs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Intake referrals to/from other programs
<input type="checkbox"/>	One - stop intake centers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other - Describe:

Cherokee Nation is one of the largest service providers in Northeastern Oklahoma. The Tribe regularly coordinates services with the county Department of Human Services offices, local Community Action Programs, and various other service providers within the boundaries of the Cherokee Nation. The tribe contacts the local DHS offices regarding LIHEAP information sharing and Tribal Agencies.

**If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.**

**Section 8 - Agency Designation,, 2605(b)(6) - Assurance 6**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

August 1987, revised 05/92,02/95,03/96,12/98,11/01  
OMB Clearance No.: 0970-0075  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2023

**LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(LIHEAP)  
MODEL PLAN  
SF - 424 - MANDATORY**

**Section 8: Agency Designation, 2605(b)(6) - Assurance 6 (Required for state grantees and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico)**

**8.1 How would you categorize the primary responsibility of your State agency?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Administration Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commerce Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Services Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy / Environment Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Housing Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Welfare Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other - Describe:

**Alternate Outreach and Intake, 2605(b)(15) - Assurance 15**

If you selected "Welfare Agency" in question 8.1, you must complete questions 8.2, 8.3, and 8.4, as applicable.

**8.2 How do you provide alternate outreach and intake for HEATING ASSISTANCE?**

**8.3 How do you provide alternate outreach and intake for COOLING ASSISTANCE?**

**8.4 How do you provide alternate outreach and intake for CRISIS ASSISTANCE?**

8.5 LIHEAP Component Administration.	Heating	Cooling	Crisis	Weatherization
8.5a Who determines client eligibility?				
8.5b Who processes benefit payments to gas and electric vendors?				
8.5c who processes benefit payments to bulk fuel vendors?				
8.5d Who performs installation of weatherization measures?				

**If any of your LIHEAP components are not centrally-administered by a state agency, you must complete questions 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, and, if applicable, 8.9.**

**8.6 What is your process for selecting local administering agencies?**

8.7 How many local administering agencies do you use?

8.8 Have you changed any local administering agencies in the last year?

- Yes
- No

8.9 If so, why?

Agency was in noncompliance with grantee requirements for LIHEAP -

Agency is under criminal investigation

Added agency

Agency closed

Other - describe

**If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.**

Section 9 - Energy Suppliers,, 2605(b)(7) - Assurance 7

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

August 1987, revised 05/92,02/95,03/96,12/98,11/01  
OMB Clearance No.: 0970-0075  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2023

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(LIHEAP)  
MODEL PLAN  
SF - 424 - MANDATORY

Section 9: Energy Suppliers, 2605(b)(7) - Assurance 7

9.1 Do you make payments directly to home energy suppliers?

Heating  Yes  No

Cooling  Yes  No

Crisis  Yes  No

Are there exceptions?  Yes  No

If yes, Describe.

Payments are made directly to the client if their heating/cooling cost is included in the rent.

The checks for participants whose main source of heating is wood, will be mailed to the participants so they can ensure the delivery of the wood. However, the checks will be made payable to the wood vendor.

Each vendor will receive a letter of notification advising the vendor of the participant's eligibility and the benefit payment they were approved for. The notice provides vendor delivery instructions and vendor payment.

9.2 How do you notify the client of the amount of assistance paid?

Each participant will receive a client payment notification letter advising the recipient that payment has been made to the vendor on their behalf and the payment amount.

9.3 How do you assure that the home energy supplier will charge the eligible household, in the normal billing process, the difference between the actual cost of the home energy and the amount of the payment?

For on-going home energy services (natural gas & electricity) the vendor receives a Vendor Notification letter along with a Vendor Invoice. The vendor will be instructed to credit the recipient's account upon receipt of payment from Cherokee Nation. All propane clients will be required to verify propane vendor. The one-time LIHEAP assistance payment will be made to the vendor once the invoice is signed and returned for payment. The invoice also serves as a vendor instruction sheet, as well as agreement statement forcing the vendor to follow the steps outlined in the invoice. Cherokee Nation will mail out annual letters to all vendors addressing that the home energy supplier will charge the eligible household, the normal billing process, the difference between the actual cost of the home energy and the amount of the payment.

9.4 How do you assure that no household receiving assistance under this title will be treated adversely because of their receipt of LIHEAP assistance?

Cherokee Nation has worked with local energy suppliers in the past and has experienced no difficulty with the relationship between the suppliers and the participant. Should treatment by the suppliers to the participant change in the future and suppliers treat participants different than regular customers, Cherokee Nation would choose to discontinue working with the supplier. Cherokee Nation will mail out an Annual Vendor letter to ensure that that these statutory requirements are met.

9.5. Do you make payments contingent on unregulated vendors taking appropriate measures to alleviate the energy burdens of eligible households?

Yes  No

If so, describe the measures unregulated vendors may take.

**If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.**

**Section 10 - Program, Fiscal Monitoring, and Audit, 2605(b)(10) - Assurance 10**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

August 1987, revised 05/92,02/95,03/96,12/98,11/01  
OMB Clearance No.: 0970-0075  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2023

**LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(LIHEAP)  
MODEL PLAN  
SF - 424 - MANDATORY**

**Section 10: Program, Fiscal Monitoring, and Audit, 2605(b)(10)**

**10.1. How do you ensure good fiscal accounting and tracking of LIHEAP funds?**

CN ensures the oversight of federal funds through CN's organizational policies and procedures. CN utilizes multiple levels of preventative policies and procedures in order to ensure compliance with federal and non-federal grantor regulations. These policies and procedures cover all aspects of accounting for grant funds: Accounts Payable, Budgets, Financial Systems, Internal Controls, Payroll, Travel, Cash Management, and Grants Management Policies. CN reviews all policies and procedures for update on an annual basis. Necessary updates are made as needed.

CN has Internal Controls (IC) for all accounting processes. There are six different Internal Controls (IC) narratives that ensure compliance with CN Internal Controls: Account Payable, Budgeting, Cash, Financial Reporting, Grants, and Payroll. Financial Resources staff members provide effective controls and accountability for all funds through daily monitoring of bank balances, reconciliation of deposits to receipts, and data entry into the accounting system for accounts payable, etc.

Each department is responsible for tracking an inventory of all assets and ensuring that they are used solely for authorized purposes. CN's Lawson Financial Management System is a well-developed financial management system capable of accounting for each project CN undertakes separately and distinctly from other sources of revenue/funding. The Lawson system tracks expenses down to the account and activity level for each grant or contract received by CN. Additionally, once a grant budget has been submitted to the Budgets department, that budget is uploaded into the system. Once the upload is completed, the system will track budgeted versus actual amounts until closeout of the grant.

CN has multiple avenues of payment processes in place to accommodate the specific requirements per funding agency. CN processes payments via invoices, vouchers, and/or drawdowns on a weekly basis or monthly basis, as required by the funding agency. CN processes grant billing and drawdowns on Wednesday of each week. These are done on a reimbursement basis. All initial expenditures are paid from a General Fund account and then the General Fund is reimbursed following the weekly billing cycle. Each process is closely monitored in accordance with relevant policies and procedures.

CN has a subrecipient monitoring policy in place that was established to assure that CN, in its role as a prime recipient, undertakes certain stewardship activities of monitoring the subrecipient, as well as comply with federal, state, and local regulations. Grant Services assigns responsibility for conducting a portion of the work sponsored by an award to a subrecipient, the Grant Services department will ensure each subrecipient is responsible for management of funds and meeting the performance goals of a grant. Grant Services will monitor technical and financial activities and assist with any support associated with a subrecipient.

CN has a Times and Records policy that was established to ensure CN employees properly document their time and effort in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. Actual hours worked are documented through the use of an automated time management system. Each employee and their supervisor is responsible for reviewing and electronically signing their timesheets, certifying their accuracy.

CN's financial statements are audited yearly by an independent audit firm. This audit includes both the Financial Statement Audit and Single Audit pursuant to OMB requirements. The most recent Single Audit for CN was for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. This audit was issued June 30, 2020, and was submitted to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse upon completion. The Nation qualified as a low-risk auditee as defined in the OMB requirements. There were no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses reported. The auditors expressed an unmodified opinion on the single audit. CN is a model for compliance to law and regulation while providing speedy responses to programmatic needs.

CN will continue maintaining this standard of operation. Additionally CN certifies that it shall remain fiscally responsible and control costs, regardless of whether the funds made available for the proposed project are incrementally increased or decreased between fiscal years. The Secretary, Inspector General, Comptroller General, or their duly authorized representative shall have access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the program that are pertinent to the proposed project in order to conduct surveys, audits, and evaluations of the grantee.

**Audit Process**

**10.2. Is your LIHEAP program audited annually under the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A - 133?**

Yes  No

**10.3. Describe any audit findings rising to the level of material weakness or reportable condition cited in the A-133 audits, Grantee monitoring assessments, inspector general reviews, or other government agency reviews of the LIHEAP agency from the most recently audited fiscal year.**

No Findings

Finding	Type	Brief Summary	Resolved?	Action Taken
1				

**10.4. Audits of Local Administering Agencies**

What types of annual audit requirements do you have in place for local administering agencies/district offices?  
Select all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/> Local agencies/district offices are required to have an annual audit in compliance with Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133
<input type="checkbox"/> Local agencies/district offices are required to have an annual audit (other than A-133)
<input type="checkbox"/> Local agencies/district offices' A-133 or other independent audits are reviewed by Grantee as part of compliance process.
<input type="checkbox"/> Grantee conducts fiscal and program monitoring of local agencies/district offices
<b>Compliance Monitoring</b>
<b>10.5. Describe the Grantee's strategies for monitoring compliance with the Grantee's and Federal LIHEAP policies and procedures: Select all that apply</b>
<b>Grantee employees:</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal program review
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Departmental oversight
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secondary review of invoices and payments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other program review mechanisms are in place. Describe:
<p>Administrative review and approval of all LIHEAP participants' applications.</p> <p>Monitor State LIHEAP participant printouts to assure that duplication of services does not occur. Cherokee Nation also sends sign in sheets of all participants who apply for LIHEAP to County DHS offices to prevent duplication of services.</p> <p>Home visits/vendor visits will be conducted on a random basis to monitor heat source delivery, unit costs, and follow up on reported complaints.</p>
<b>Local Administering Agencies / District Offices:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> On - site evaluation
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual program review
<input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring through central database
<input type="checkbox"/> Desk reviews
<input type="checkbox"/> Client File Testing / Sampling
<input type="checkbox"/> Other program review mechanisms are in place. Describe:
Cherokee Nation does not have any Local Administering Agencies.
<b>10.6 Explain, or attach a copy of your local agency monitoring schedule and protocol.</b>
NA
<b>10.7. Describe how you select local agencies for monitoring reviews.</b>
<b>Site Visits:</b>
NA
<b>Desk Reviews:</b>
NA
<b>10.8. How often is each local agency monitored ?</b>
NA
<b>10.9. What is the combined error rate for eligibility determinations? OPTIONAL</b>
<b>10.10. What is the combined error rate for benefit determinations? OPTIONAL</b>
<b>10.11. How many local agencies are currently on corrective action plans for eligibility and/or benefit determination issues? NA</b>
<b>10.12. How many local agencies are currently on corrective action plans for financial accounting or administrative issues? NA</b>
<b>If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in</b>

**the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.**



**Section 11 - Timely and Meaningful Public Participation, , 2605(b)(12) - Assurance 12, 2605(c)(2)**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	August 1987, revised 05/92,02/95,03/96,12/98,11/01 OMB Clearance No.: 0970-0075 Expiration Date: 12/31/2023
<p><b>LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(LIHEAP)                  MODEL PLAN                  SF - 424 - MANDATORY</b></p>	

**Section 11: Timely and Meaningful Public Participation, 2605(b)(12), 2605(C)(2)**

**11.1 How did you obtain input from the public in the development of your LIHEAP plan?  
 Select all that apply.**

- Tribal Council meeting(s)
- Public Hearing(s)
- Draft Plan posted to website and available for comment
- Hard copy of plan is available for public view and comment
- Comments from applicants are recorded
- Request for comments on draft Plan is advertised
- Stakeholder consultation meeting(s)
- Comments are solicited during outreach activities
- Other - Describe:

A timely and meaningful public comment period is provided each year to allow concerned Tribal members, local Department of Human Services, Community Action Programs, and major energy suppliers/vendors to review the proposed application and provide written and/or verbal comments prior to the submission of the LIHEAP application.

The proposed LIHEAP applicaiton is available for public review in all Cherokee Nation Family Assistance office sites located throughout the reservation boundaries of the Cherokee Nation.

Persons unable to review the application at one of the Tribal offices may request information about the program by phone and submit written comments to the LIHEAP Manager or Designee.

Public participation of the review and comment on the proposed application is solicited through public service announcement in the local newspaper.

**11.2 What changes did you make to your LIHEAP plan as a result of this participation?**

No changes were made.

**Public Hearings, 2605(a)(2) - For States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Only**

**11.3 List the date and location(s) that you held public hearing(s) on the proposed use and distribution of your LIHEAP funds?**

	Date	Event Description
1		

**11.4. How many parties commented on your plan at the hearing(s)?**

**11.5 Summarize the comments you received at the hearing(s).**

**11.6 What changes did you make to your LIHEAP plan as a result of the comments received at the public hearing(s)?**

**If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.**

## Section 12 - Fair Hearings,2605(b)(13) - Assurance 13

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

August 1987, revised 05/92,02/95,03/96,12/98,11/01  
OMB Clearance No.: 0970-0075  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2023

### LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(LIHEAP) MODEL PLAN SF - 424 - MANDATORY

## Section 12: Fair Hearings, 2605(b)(13) - Assurance 13

**12.1 How many fair hearings did the grantee have in the prior Federal fiscal year?** 0

**12.2 How many of those fair hearings resulted in the initial decision being reversed?** 0

**12.3 Describe any policy and/or procedural changes made in the last Federal fiscal year as a result of fair hearings?**

There have been no fair hearings proceedings. There are no changes.

**12.4 Describe your fair hearing procedures for households whose applications are denied.**

Should an applicant under the LIHEAP Program be denied services or receive services that are not acted upon with reasonable promptness, the applicant may request an administrative hearing. Client will be informed of the appeal rights during the time of their application. Their appeal rights are included in the LIHEAP application and in all Disapproval notification letters.

The client must request a hearing in writing within ten (10) days upon receipt of the Disapproval Notification Letter either by U.S. mail or hand delivery to one of the Cherokee Nation field offices or the Family Assistance Department located in the Tribal Complex in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

A hearing date will be set not to exceed 20 days after the receipt of the participant's written request. All hearings will be conducted in the Cherokee Nation Human Services Department, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

A complete review of the facts surrounding the request and a review of regulations will take place at the hearing. After the facts are presented and reviewed, the Department Director shall reach a determination during the hearing. Reasons for the determination will be explained to all parties.

If the participant is still dissatisfied with the Department Director's decision a final request can be made with the Executive Director of Human Services Group. The Executive Director's decision will be the final decision.

**12.5 When and how are applicants informed of these rights?**

Clients will be informed of their appeal rights during the time of their application. Their appeal rights are included in the LIHEAP application and in all Disapproval notification letters.

**12.6 Describe your fair hearing procedures for households whose applications are not acted on in a timely manner.**

Should an applicant under the LIHEAP Program receive services that are not acted upon with reasonable promptness, the applicant may request an administrative hearing. Clients will be informed of their appeal rights during the time of their application. Their appeal rights are included in the LIHEAP application in all disapproval notification letters.

The client must request a hearing in writing within ten (10) days upon receipt of the Disapproval Notification Letter either by U.S. mail or hand delivery to one of the Cherokee Nation Family Assistance field offices or the Family Assistance Department located in the Tribal Complex, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

A hearing date will be set not to exceed 20 days after receipt of the participants written request. All hearings will be conducted in the Cherokee Nation Human Services office located in the Family Assistance Department, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

A complete review of the facts surrounding the request and a review of regulations will take place at the hearing. After all the facts are presented and reviewed, the Department Director shall reach a determination during the hearing. Reason for determination will be explained to all parties.

If the participant is still dissatisfied with the department Director's decision, a final request can be made with the Executive Director of Human Services Group. The Executive Director's decision will be the final decision.

**12.7 When and how are applicants informed of these rights?**

Client will be informed of their appeal rights during the time of their application. Their appeal rights are included in the LIHEAP application and in all Disapproval Notification Letters.

**If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.**

**Section 13 - Reduction of home energy needs,2605(b)(16) - Assurance 16**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

August 1987, revised 05/92,02/95,03/96,12/98,11/01  
OMB Clearance No.: 0970-0075  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2023

**LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(LIHEAP)  
MODEL PLAN  
SF - 424 - MANDATORY**

**Section 13: Reduction of home energy needs, 2605(b)(16) - Assurance 16**

**13.1 Describe how you use LIHEAP funds to provide services that encourage and enable households to reduce their home energy needs and thereby the need for energy assistance?**

Cherokee Nation does not have a reduction of home energy need component.

**13.2 How do you ensure that you don't use more than 5% of your LIHEAP funds for these activities?**

Cherokee Nation does not have a reduction of home energy need component.

**13.3 Describe the impact of such activities on the number of households served in the previous Federal fiscal year.**

There are no statistics. This service is not provided by Cherokee Nation.

**13.4 Describe the level of direct benefits provided to those households in the previous Federal fiscal year.**

Direct benefits were not provided.

**13.5 How many households applied for these services? 0**

**13.6 How many households received these services? 0**

**If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.**

**Section 14 - Leveraging Incentive Program ,2607A**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

August 1987, revised 05/92,02/95,03/96,12/98,11/01  
OMB Clearance No.: 0970-0075  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2023

**LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(LIHEAP)  
MODEL PLAN  
SF - 424 - MANDATORY**

**Section 14:Leveraging Incentive Program, 2607(A)**

14.1 Do you plan to submit an application for the leveraging incentive program?

Yes  No

14.2 Describe instructions to any third parties and/or local agencies for submitting LIHEAP leveraging resource information and retaining records.

Cherokee Nation doesn't utilize local agencies.

14.3 For each type of resource and/or benefit to be leveraged in the upcoming year that will meet the requirements of 45 C.F.R. § 96.87(d)(2)(iii), describe the following:

Resource	What is the type of resource or benefit ?	What is the source(s) of the resource ?	How will the resource be integrated and coordinated with LIHEAP?
1	The LIHEAP Manager will submit a proposal to Cherokee Nation for Tribal discretionary funds to supplement Federal LIHEAP funding.	All Tribal discretionary funds are non-federal resources generated through Tribal Enterprises.	All funds appropriated for LIHEAP through Tribal discretionary funding will be distributed to eligible low income households through the grantee's LIHEAP program. These funds will be budgeted into either the heating/cooling assistance, crisis assistance or purchasing heating/cooling appliances for LIHEAP eligible households.

**If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.**

## Section 15 - Training

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

August 1987, revised 05/92,02/95,03/96,12/98,11/01  
OMB Clearance No.: 0970-0075  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2023

### LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(LIHEAP) MODEL PLAN SF - 424 - MANDATORY

## Section 15: Training

15.1 Describe the training you provide for each of the following groups:

**a. Grantee Staff:**

Formal training on grantee policies and procedures

How often?

Annually

Biannually

As needed

Other - Describe:

Employees are provided with policy manual

Other-Describe:

**b. Local Agencies:**

Formal training conference

How often?

Annually

Biannually

As needed

Other - Describe:

On-site training

How often?

Annually

Biannually

As needed

Other - Describe:

Employees are provided with policy manual

Other - Describe

**c. Vendors**

Formal training conference

How often?

Annually

Biannually

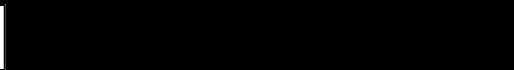
As needed

Other - Describe:

Policies communicated through vendor agreements

Policies are outlined in a vendor manual

**Other - Describe:**  
Any type of training necessary, as needed.



15.2 Does your training program address fraud reporting and prevention?

- Yes
- No

**If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.**

**Section 16 - Performance Goals and Measures, 2605(b)**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

August 1987, revised 05/92,02/95,03/96,12/98,11/01  
OMB Clearance No.: 0970-0075  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2023

**LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(LIHEAP)  
MODEL PLAN  
SF - 424 - MANDATORY**

**Section 16: Performance Goals and Measures, 2605(b) - Required for States Only**

16.1 Describe your progress toward meeting the data collection and reporting requirements of the four required LIHEAP performance measures. Include timeframes and plans for meeting these requirements and what you believe will be accomplished in the coming federal fiscal year.

NA

**If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.**



**Section 17 - Program Integrity, 2605(b)(10)**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

August 1987, revised 05/92,02/95,03/96,12/98,11/01  
OMB Clearance No.: 0970-0075  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2023

**LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(LIHEAP)  
MODEL PLAN  
SF - 424 - MANDATORY**

**Section 17: Program Integrity, 2605(b)(10)**

**17.1 Fraud Reporting Mechanisms**

**a. Describe all mechanisms available to the public for reporting cases of suspected waste, fraud, and abuse. Select all that apply.**

Online Fraud Reporting

Dedicated Fraud Reporting Hotline

Report directly to local agency/district office or Grantee office

Report to State Inspector General or Attorney General

Forms and procedures in place for local agencies/district offices and vendors to report fraud, waste, and abuse

Other - Describe:

Currently information on LIHEAP is published in a local newspaper which includes the start date and end date as well as the phone number for more information regarding program guidelines. The Cherokee Nation website also carries information on the LIHEAP program.

During FY 2022 Cherokee Nation will provide a telephone number and email address for the public to report suspected fraud, waste or abuse. This will be published in the newspaper articles and on the Cherokee Nation website.

Flyers will be posted in the Cherokee Nation senior nutrition sites, field offices notifying the public of the avenue to report suspected fraud, waste and abuse.

**b. Describe strategies in place for advertising the above-referenced resources. Select all that apply**

Printed outreach materials

Addressed on LIHEAP application

Website

Other - Describe:

Flyers will be posted in the Cherokee Nation senior nutrition sites, field offices notifying the public of the avenue to report suspected fraud, waste and abuse.

**17.2. Identification Documentation Requirements**

**a. Indicate which of the following forms of identification are required or requested to be collected from LIHEAP applicants or their household members.**

Type of Identification Collected	Collected from Whom?		
	Applicant Only	All Adults in Household	All Household Members
Social Security Card is photocopied and retained	<input type="checkbox"/> Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required
	<input type="checkbox"/> Requested	<input type="checkbox"/> Requested	<input type="checkbox"/> Requested
Social Security Number (Without actual Card)	<input type="checkbox"/> Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Required
	<input type="checkbox"/> Requested	<input type="checkbox"/> Requested	<input type="checkbox"/> Requested

Government-issued identification card (i.e.: driver's license, state ID, Tribal ID, passport, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Required	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requested	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requested	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requested	
	Other	Applicant Only Required	Applicant Only Requested	All Adults in Household Required	All Adults in Household Requested	All Household Members Required	All Household Members Requested
1		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>b. Describe any exceptions to the above policies.</b>  Cherokee Nation has always required a copy of the applicant's social security card and the card of all household members. If that was not available a copy of the applicant's tax return with the social security listed.							
<b>17.3 Identification Verification</b>							
Describe what methods are used to verify the authenticity of identification documents provided by clients or household members. Select all that apply							
<input type="checkbox"/> Verify SSNs with Social Security Administration							
<input type="checkbox"/> Match SSNs with death records from Social Security Administration or state agency							
<input type="checkbox"/> Match SSNs with state eligibility/case management system (e.g., SNAP, TANF)							
<input type="checkbox"/> Match with state Department of Labor system							
<input type="checkbox"/> Match with state and/or federal corrections system							
<input type="checkbox"/> Match with state child support system							
<input type="checkbox"/> Verification using private software (e.g., The Work Number)							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-person certification by staff (for tribal grantees only)							
<input type="checkbox"/> Match SSN/Tribal ID number with tribal database or enrollment records (for tribal grantees only)							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Other - Describe:</b>  Documentation verifying identities such as a state id, social security number for all household members, driver license, Tribal membership cards and Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood are presented to the staff taking the application. This information is copied and attached to the application. If the client fills out their application the documents listed above will need to be attached to their application when submitted.  Cherokee Nation will continue to work with the local DHS office to verify that the Social Security numbers are valid and will be evaluating the possible use of the 2 systems identified through Social Security Administration (EVS and/or CBSV).							
<b>17.4. Citizenship/Legal Residency Verification</b>							
What are your procedures for ensuring that household members are U.S. citizens or aliens who are qualified to receive LIHEAP benefits? Select all that apply.							
<input type="checkbox"/> Clients sign an attestation of citizenship or legal residency							
<input type="checkbox"/> Client's submission of Social Security cards is accepted as proof of legal residency							
<input type="checkbox"/> Noncitizens must provide documentation of immigration status							
<input type="checkbox"/> Citizens must provide a copy of their birth certificate, naturalization papers, or passport							
<input type="checkbox"/> Noncitizens are verified through the SAVE system							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal members are verified through Tribal enrollment records/Tribal ID card							
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other - Describe:</b>  Cherokee Nation will continue to require tribal membership and Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood. Staff will continue to verify tribal membership through Tribal Registration. Copies will be attached to the application.							
<b>17.5. Income Verification</b>							
What methods does your agency utilize to verify household income? Select all that apply.							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Require documentation of income for all adult household members							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pay stubs							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Security award letters							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bank statements							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tax statements							

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Zero-income statements</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Unemployment Insurance letters</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other - Describe:</b>  Income verification is confirmed by requiring the applicant to provide check stubs showing income for the past 30 days. If self employed income tax statements are used, Social Security, and SSI is verified by a copy of the check, bank statement showing direct deposit or award letter and also the print out from DHS.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Computer data matches:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Income information matched against state computer system (e.g., SNAP, TANF)</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Proof of unemployment benefits verified with state Department of Labor</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Social Security income verified with SSA</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Utilize state directory of new hires</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other - Describe:</b>
<b>17.6. Protection of Privacy and Confidentiality</b>
<b>Describe the financial and operating controls in place to protect client information against improper use or disclosure. Select all that apply.</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Policy in place prohibiting release of information without written consent</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Grantee LIHEAP database includes privacy/confidentiality safeguards</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Employee training on confidentiality for:</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Grantee employees</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Local agencies/district offices</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Employees must sign confidentiality agreement</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Grantee employees</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Local agencies/district offices</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Physical files are stored in a secure location</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other - Describe:</b>  All applications are maintained in a locked office while being processed for approval.  Staff are trained in the HIPPA guidelines and are aware of the Privacy Act.  There is a system of payment in place which ensures that the payments are not approved or made by the same people who took the application. The process includes steps to ensure that the privacy of the clients are maintained.  All applications are approved by management then entered into the data base, a spreadsheet is uploaded then management approval of the spreadsheet is required again and then sent to accounting to process the payment. The payment is then sent to the vendor by mail from accounting.
<b>17.7. Verifying the Authenticity</b>
<b>What policies are in place for verifying vendor authenticity? Select all that apply.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>All vendors must register with the State/Tribe.</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>All vendors must supply a valid SSN or TIN/W-9 form</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Vendors are verified through energy bills provided by the household</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Grantee and/or local agencies/district offices perform physical monitoring of vendors</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other - Describe and note any exceptions to policies above:</b>  Energy vendors must have a W-9 form in place with the Cherokee Nation Accounting Department in order to verify authenticity and to prevent fraud.
<b>17.8. Benefits Policy - Gas and Electric Utilities</b>
<b>What policies are in place to protect against fraud when making benefit payments to gas and electric utilities on behalf of clients? Select all that apply.</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Applicants required to submit proof of physical residency</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Applicants must submit current utility bill</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Data exchange with utilities that verifies:</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Account ownership</b>

<input type="checkbox"/>	Consumption
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Balances
<input type="checkbox"/>	Payment history
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Account is properly credited with benefit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other - Describe:  Procedures to prevent fraud and improper payments are used such as a W-9 form requirement for all vendors, invoices verifying vendor payment to ensure the correct person is credited and the correct amount to credit. A second vendor letter, which is an instruction letter, is sent to the vendor that requests information of any other LIHEAP payment made to the client from any other agency.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Centralized computer system/database tracks payments to all utilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Centralized computer system automatically generates benefit level
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Separation of duties between intake and payment approval
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Payments coordinated among other energy assistance programs to avoid duplication of payments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Payments to utilities and invoices from utilities are reviewed for accuracy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Computer databases are periodically reviewed to verify accuracy and timeliness of payments made to utilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Direct payment to households are made in limited cases only
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Procedures are in place to require prompt refunds from utilities in cases of account closure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vendor agreements specify requirements selected above, and provide enforcement mechanism
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other - Describe:  Cherokee Nation is in the process of implementing a vendor agreement.
<b>17.9. Benefits Policy - Bulk Fuel Vendors</b>	
What procedures are in place for averting fraud and improper payments when dealing with bulk fuel suppliers of heating oil, propane, wood, and other bulk fuel vendors? Select all that apply.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vendors are checked against an approved vendors list
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Centralized computer system/database is used to track payments to all vendors
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clients are relied on for reports of non-delivery or partial delivery
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two-party checks are issued naming client and vendor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Direct payment to households are made in limited cases only
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vendors are only paid once they provide a delivery receipt signed by the client
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conduct monitoring of bulk fuel vendors
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bulk fuel vendors are required to submit reports to the Grantee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vendor agreements specify requirements selected above, and provide enforcement mechanism
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other - Describe:  Procedures to prevent fraud and improper payments are used such as a W-9 form requirement for all vendors, invoices verifying vendor payment to ensure the correct person is credited and the correct amount to credit.  Cherokee Nation will continue to require documentation from the unregulated vendors detailing amount received from Cherokee Nation, delivery dates and amount delivered, and the correct credit if any to make sure that the client is receiving all LIHEAP purchased fuel due them. The usage amount will also serve to identify the client's main heating source.
<b>17.10. Investigations and Prosecutions</b>	
Describe the Grantee's procedures for investigating and prosecuting reports of fraud, and any sanctions placed on clients/staff/vendors found to have committed fraud. Select all that apply.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refer to state Inspector General
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refer to local prosecutor or state Attorney General
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refer to US DHHS Inspector General (including referral to OIG hotline)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local agencies/district offices or Grantee conduct investigation of fraud complaints from public
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grantee attempts collection of improper payments. If so, describe the recoupment process  A letter is sent to the client explaining the overpayment with options for repayment. If there is no contact from the client the case is turned over to Cherokee Nation Office of the Attorney General for recoupment. The client will not receive LIHEAP until the overpayment is recouped.

<input type="checkbox"/> Clients found to have committed fraud are banned from LIHEAP assistance. For how long is a household banned?
<input type="checkbox"/> Contracts with local agencies require that employees found to have committed fraud are reprimanded and/or terminated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vendors found to have committed fraud may no longer participate in LIHEAP
<input type="checkbox"/> Other - Describe:
<b>If any of the above questions require further explanation or clarification that could not be made in the fields provided, attach a document with said explanation here.</b>

**Section 18: Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters**

**Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters--Primary Covered Transactions**

**Instructions for Certification**

1. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective primary participant is providing the certification set out below.

2. The inability of a person to provide the certification required below will not necessarily result in denial of participation in this covered transaction. The prospective participant shall submit an explanation of why it cannot provide the certification set out below. The certification or explanation will be considered in connection with the department or agency's determination whether to enter into this transaction. However, failure of the prospective primary participant to furnish a certification or an explanation shall disqualify such person from participation in this transaction.

3. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when the department or agency determined to enter into this transaction. If it is later determined that the prospective primary participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency may terminate this transaction for cause or default.

4. The prospective primary participant shall provide immediate written notice to the department or agency to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective primary participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

5. The terms covered transaction, debarred, suspended, ineligible, lower tier covered transaction, participant, person, primary covered transaction, principal, proposal, and voluntarily excluded, as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the department or agency to which this proposal is being submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.

6. The prospective primary participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency entering into this transaction.

7. The prospective primary participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include the clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transaction," provided by the department or agency entering into this covered transaction, without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.

8. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, ineligible, or

voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Nonprocurement Programs.

9. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

10. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 6 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency may terminate this transaction for cause or default.

### **Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters--Primary Covered Transactions**

(1) The prospective primary participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:

(a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded by any Federal department or agency;

(b) Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;

(c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1)(b) of this certification; and

(d) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.

(2) Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

### **Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion--Lower Tier Covered Transactions**

#### **Instructions for Certification**

1. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out below.

2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later

determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or had become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

4. The terms covered transaction, debarred, suspended, ineligible, lower tier covered transaction, participant, person, primary covered transaction, principal, proposal, and voluntarily excluded, as used in this clause, have the meaning set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the person to which this proposal is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.

5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, [[Page 33043]] should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.

6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include this clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transaction," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.

7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Nonprocurement Programs.

8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

#### **Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility an Voluntary Exclusion--Lower Tier Covered Transactions**

(1) The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.



**(2) Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.**

**By checking this box, the prospective primary participant is providing the certification set out above.**

## Section 19: Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements

### Section 19: Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements

This certification is required by the regulations implementing the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988: 45 CFR Part 76, Subpart, F. Sections 76.630(c) and (d)(2) and 76.645(a)(1) and (b) provide that a Federal agency may designate a central receipt point for STATE-WIDE AND STATE AGENCY-WIDE certifications, and for notification of criminal drug convictions. For the Department of Health and Human Services, the central point is: Division of Grants Management and Oversight, Office of Management and Acquisition, Department of Health and Human Services, Room 517-D, 200 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20201.

#### Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (Instructions for Certification)

1. By signing and/or submitting this application or grant agreement, the grantee is providing the certification set out below.
2. The certification set out below is a material representation of fact upon which reliance is placed when the agency awards the grant. If it is later determined that the grantee knowingly rendered a false certification, or otherwise violates the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act, the agency, in addition to any other remedies available to the Federal Government, may take action authorized under the Drug-Free Workplace Act.
3. For grantees other than individuals, Alternate I applies.
4. For grantees who are individuals, Alternate II applies.
5. Workplaces under grants, for grantees other than individuals, need not be identified on the certification. If known, they may be identified in the grant application. If the grantee does not identify the workplaces at the time of application, or upon award, if there is no application, the grantee must keep the identity of the workplace(s) on file in its office and make the information available for Federal inspection. Failure to identify all known workplaces constitutes a violation of the grantee's drug-free workplace requirements.
6. Workplace identifications must include the actual address of buildings (or parts of buildings) or other sites where work under the grant takes place. Categorical descriptions may be used (e.g., all vehicles of a mass transit authority or State highway department while in operation, State employees in each local unemployment office, performers in concert halls or radio studios).
7. If the workplace identified to the agency changes during the performance of the grant, the grantee shall inform the agency of the change(s), if it previously identified the workplaces in question (see paragraph five).
8. Definitions of terms in the Nonprocurement Suspension and Debarment common rule and Drug-Free Workplace common rule apply to this certification. Grantees' attention is called, in particular, to the following definitions from these rules:

**Controlled substance** means a controlled substance in Schedules I through V of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812) and as further defined by regulation (21 CFR 1308.11 through 1308.15);

**Conviction** means a finding of guilt (including a plea of nolo contendere) or imposition of sentence, or both, by any judicial body charged with the responsibility to determine violations of the Federal or State criminal drug statutes;

**Criminal drug statute** means a Federal or non-Federal criminal statute involving the manufacture, distribution, dispensing, use, or possession of any controlled substance;

**Employee** means the employee of a grantee directly engaged in the performance of work under a grant, including: (i) All direct charge employees; (ii) All indirect charge employees unless their impact or involvement is insignificant to the performance of the grant; and, (iii) Temporary personnel and consultants who are directly engaged in the performance of work under the grant and who are on the grantee's payroll. This definition does not include workers not on the payroll of the grantee (e.g., volunteers, even if used to meet a matching requirement; consultants or independent contractors not on the grantee's payroll; or employees of subrecipients or subcontractors in covered workplaces).

#### **Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements**

##### **Alternate I. (Grantees Other Than Individuals)**

The grantee certifies that it will or will continue to provide a drug-free workplace by:

- (a) Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the grantee's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of such prohibition;
- (b) Establishing an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about --
  - (1) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
  - (2) The grantee's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
  - (3) Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
  - (4) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace;
- c) Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the grant be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph (a);
- (d) Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph (a) that, as a condition of employment under the grant, the employee will --
  - (1) Abide by the terms of the statement; and
  - (2) Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction;
- (e) Notifying the agency in writing, within ten calendar days after receiving notice under paragraph (d)(2) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such conviction. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice, including position title, to every grant officer or other designee on whose grant activity the convicted employee was working, unless the Federal agency has designated a central point for the receipt of such notices. Notice shall include the identification

number(s) of each affected grant;  
 (f) Taking one of the following actions, within 30 calendar days of receiving notice under paragraph (d)(2), with respect to any employee who is so convicted -(1) Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or  
 (2) Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a Federal, State, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;  
 (g) Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f).  
 (B) The grantee may insert in the space provided below the site(s) for the performance of work done in connection with the specific grant:

**Place of Performance (Street address, city, county, state, zip code)**

Cherokee Nation * <b>Address Line 1</b>		
P.O. Box 1669 Address Line 2		
17675 South Muskogee Ave. Address Line 3		
Tahlequah * <b>City</b>	OK * <b>State</b>	74465-1669 * <b>Zip Code</b>

**Check if there are workplaces on file that are not identified here.**

**Alternate II. (Grantees Who Are Individuals)**

(a) The grantee certifies that, as a condition of the grant, he or she will not engage in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance in conducting any activity with the grant;

(b) If convicted of a criminal drug offense resulting from a violation occurring during the conduct of any grant activity, he or she will report the conviction, in writing, within 10 calendar days of the conviction, to every grant officer or other designee, unless the Federal agency designates a central point for the receipt of such notices. When notice is made to such a central point, it shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant.

[55 FR 21690, 21702, May 25, 1990]

**By checking this box, the prospective primary participant is providing the certification set out above.**

Section 20: Certification Regarding Lobbying

Section 20: Certification Regarding Lobbying

The submitter of this application certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

By checking this box, the prospective primary participant is providing the certification set out above.

## Assurances

### Assurances

**(1) use the funds available under this title to--**

**(A) conduct outreach activities and provide assistance to low income households in meeting their home energy costs, particularly those with the lowest incomes that pay a high proportion of household income for home energy, consistent with paragraph (5);**

**(B) intervene in energy crisis situations;**

**(C) provide low-cost residential weatherization and other cost-effective energy-related home repair; and**

**(D) plan, develop, and administer the State's program under this title including leveraging programs, and the State agrees not to use such funds for any purposes other than those specified in this title;**

**(2) make payments under this title only with respect to--**

**(A) households in which one or more individuals are receiving--**

**(i) assistance under the State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act;**

**(ii) supplemental security income payments under title XVI of the Social Security Act;**

**(iii) food stamps under the Food Stamp Act of 1977; or**

**(iv) payments under section 415, 521, 541, or 542 of title 38, United States Code, or under section 306 of the Veterans' and Survivors' Pension Improvement Act of 1978; or**

**(B) households with incomes which do not exceed the greater of -**

**(i) an amount equal to 150 percent of the poverty level for such State; or**

**(ii) an amount equal to 60 percent of the State median income;**

**(except that a State may not exclude a household from eligibility in a fiscal year solely on the basis of household income if such income is less than 110 percent of the poverty level for such State, but the State may give priority to those households with the highest home energy costs or needs in relation to household income.**

**(3) conduct outreach activities designed to assure that eligible households, especially households with elderly individuals or disabled individuals, or both, and households with high home energy burdens, are made aware of the assistance available under this title, and any similar energy-related assistance available under subtitle B of title VI (relating to community services block grant program) or under any other provision of law which carries out programs which were administered under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 before the date of the enactment of this Act;**

**(4) coordinate its activities under this title with similar and related programs administered by the Federal Government and such State, particularly low-income**

energy-related programs under subtitle B of title VI (relating to community services block grant program), under the supplemental security income program, under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act, under title XX of the Social Security Act, under the low-income weatherization assistance program under title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act, or under any other provision of law which carries out programs which were administered under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 before the date of the enactment of this Act;

(5) provide, in a timely manner, that the highest level of assistance will be furnished to those households which have the lowest incomes and the highest energy costs or needs in relation to income, taking into account family size, except that the State may not differentiate in implementing this section between the households described in clauses 2(A) and 2(B) of this subsection;

(6) to the extent it is necessary to designate local administrative agencies in order to carry out the purposes of this title, to give special consideration, in the designation of such agencies, to any local public or private nonprofit agency which was receiving Federal funds under any low-income energy assistance program or weatherization program under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 or any other provision of law on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, except that -

(A) the State shall, before giving such special consideration, determine that the agency involved meets program and fiscal requirements established by the State; and

(B) if there is no such agency because of any change in the assistance furnished to programs for economically disadvantaged persons, then the State shall give special consideration in the designation of local administrative agencies to any successor agency which is operated in substantially the same manner as the predecessor agency which did receive funds for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the determination is made;

(7) if the State chooses to pay home energy suppliers directly, establish procedures to --

(A) notify each participating household of the amount of assistance paid on its behalf;

(B) assure that the home energy supplier will charge the eligible household, in the normal billing process, the difference between the actual cost of the home energy and the amount of the payment made by the State under this title;

(C) assure that the home energy supplier will provide assurances that any agreement entered into with a home energy supplier under this paragraph will contain provisions to assure that no household receiving assistance under this title will be treated adversely because of such assistance under applicable provisions of State law or public regulatory requirements; and

(D) ensure that the provision of vendor payments remains at the option of the State in consultation with local grantees and may be contingent on unregulated vendors taking appropriate measures to alleviate the energy burdens of eligible households, including providing for agreements between suppliers and individuals eligible for benefits under this Act that seek to reduce home energy costs, minimize the risks of home energy crisis, and encourage regular payments by individuals receiving financial assistance for home energy costs;

**(8) provide assurances that,**

**(A) the State will not exclude households described in clause (2)(B) of this subsection from receiving home energy assistance benefits under clause (2), and**

**(B) the State will treat owners and renters equitably under the program assisted under this title;**

**(9) provide that--**

**(A) the State may use for planning and administering the use of funds under this title an amount not to exceed 10 percent of the funds payable to such State under this title for a fiscal year; and**

**(B) the State will pay from non-Federal sources the remaining costs of planning and administering the program assisted under this title and will not use Federal funds for such remaining cost (except for the costs of the activities described in paragraph (16));**

**(10) provide that such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures will be established as may be necessary to assure the proper disbursement of and accounting for Federal funds paid to the State under this title, including procedures for monitoring the assistance provided under this title, and provide that the State will comply with the provisions of chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as the "Single Audit Act");**

**(11) permit and cooperate with Federal investigations undertaken in accordance with section 2608;**

**(12) provide for timely and meaningful public participation in the development of the plan described in subsection (c);**

**(13) provide an opportunity for a fair administrative hearing to individuals whose claims for assistance under the plan described in subsection (c) are denied or are not acted upon with reasonable promptness; and**

**(14) cooperate with the Secretary with respect to data collecting and reporting under section 2610.**

**(15) \* beginning in fiscal year 1992, provide, in addition to such services as may be offered by State Departments of Public Welfare at the local level, outreach and intake functions for crisis situations and heating and cooling assistance that is administered by additional State and local governmental entities or community-based organizations (such as community action agencies, area agencies on aging and not-for-profit neighborhood-based organizations), and in States where such organizations do not administer functions as of September 30, 1991, preference in awarding grants or contracts for intake services shall be provided to those agencies that administer the low-income weatherization or energy crisis intervention programs.**

**\* This assurance is applicable only to States, and to territories whose annual regular LIHEAP allotments exceed \$200,000. Neither territories with annual allotments of \$200,000 or less nor Indian tribes/tribal organizations are subject to Assurance 15.**

**(16) use up to 5 percent of such funds, at its option, to provide services that encourage and enable households to reduce their home energy needs and**



**thereby the need for energy assistance, including needs assessments, counseling, and assistance with energy vendors, and report to the Secretary concerning the impact of such activities on the number of households served, the level of direct benefits provided to those households, and the number of households that remain unserved.**

## Plan Attachments

PLAN ATTACHMENTS
The following documents must be attached to this application
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delegation Letter is required if someone other than the Governor or Chairman Certified this Report.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heating component benefit matrix, if applicable</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cooling component benefit matrix, if applicable</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minutes, notes, or transcripts of public hearing(s).</li></ul>