

Amendment to the State Plan for Michigan's FY 2010 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

- Under statutory reference 2605(c)(1)(C) (use of funds) (page 8 of FY2008 Detailed Plan): Change the percentages **for FY10 only (October, 1 2009-September 30, 2010)** to:

29.63 % heating assistance
 % cooling assistance
51.01 % crisis assistance
 3.39 % weatherization assistance
 7.75 % carryover to the following fiscal year
 7.88 % administrative and planning costs
 % services to reduce home energy needs including needs assessment
 % used to develop and implement leveraging activities
 .34 % \$1 LIHEAP pilot program

 100 % **TOTAL**

Statutory references 2605(a) and 2605(b)(1)(use of funds)(page 8 of FY2008 Detailed Plan):

Add the following:

\$1 LIHEAP pilot program, Dates of Operation: October 1, 2009–Sept. 30, 2010

Statutory references 2605(b)(2) and 2605(c)(1)(A) (eligibility)(page 9 of FY2008 Detailed Plan):

Other (Specify), 60% of the state median income:

\$1 LIHEAP pilot program

Statutory references 2605(c)(1)(A) and 2605(b)(2)(eligibility)(page 10-11 of FY2008 Detailed Plan):

Change the Income Maximum amount for the Home Heating Credit, alternative calculation, for a group of 4 or more to \$22,091.

Add the following:

A \$1 LIHEAP pilot program was implemented to aid all Food Assistance households with their energy expenses. The Food Assistance Program (FAP) assists low-income individuals and families with the cost of food. Issuing this \$1

LIHEAP payment allows DHS to use the highest possible heat and utility deduction when determining the client's food assistance and may increase their benefit amount. The objective of the program is to generate additional resources for vulnerable households, increasing the likelihood that Michiganians will maintain affordable housing and sustain heating service. The \$1 LIHEAP pilot program also reinforces outreach efforts as outlined in Section 2605(b)(3) and program coordination in 2605(b)(4) of the LIHEAP Statute.

Households determined eligible for FAP will receive a \$1 LIHEAP payment on their EBT card, in a cash account. Current fiscal controls and fund accounting procedures will be followed to assure proper disbursement of the funds used for the \$1 LIHEAP program. Applications are not required to be filed by the household for this program. For every \$1 LIHEAP case, a notice is generated. One letter is sent for all cases that are experiencing a change in benefits and a second, generic letter is being sent to clients who do not have a change in their FAP amount. Clients are informed that the \$1 payment is to be used toward energy bills or weatherization.

- Statutory references 2604(c) and 2605(c)(1)(A) (Crisis Assistance)(page 13 of FY2008 Detailed Plan): Change the Application Process for Crisis Intervention to include:

An electronic application for crisis assistance is now accessible through the MI Bridges website, <https://www.mibridges.michigan.gov/access>. Clients are able to apply for LIHEAP crisis services by submitting an application through this website. Along with the electronic application, there has also been a development of a web service interface with participating energy providers. Applicants who apply through MI Bridges have the option to have their energy account information verified, during the application process, if their provider is an active participant in the web service feature. The face-to-face interview is waived for the applicants using the electronic application process.

- Under statutory references 2605(b)(5) and 2605(c)(1)(B) (benefit levels) (page 19-20 of FY2008 Detailed Plan):

Change annual maximum heating costs to \$2,430 in the Home Heating Credit calculation.

- Statutory references 2605(b)(5) and 2605(c)(1)(B) (determination of benefits) (page 22 of FY2008 Detailed Plan) for the Crisis Component:

Under Payment Levels, fiscal year caps were increased effective 05/10/10 through 9/30/10 as follows:

Electricity - \$850.

All-electric household - \$1,700.

Natural gas, wood and all other fuel types except for LP Gas/propane, fuel oil and coal - \$850.

Households that heat with deliverable fuel – specifically LP Gas/propane, fuel oil or coal, remained at the fiscal year cap of \$850.

- Statutory references 2605(b)(13) (fair hearings) (page 34 of FY2008 Detailed Plan):

Change the Denials section to the following:

Department of Treasury: Department of Treasury Home Heating Credit applicants will be advised of their rights to a hearing if their Home Heating Credit application is denied. They will also be afforded an opportunity to discuss any denial with Department of Treasury personnel. Applicants will be provided with a fair hearing which will be conducted by the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

Change the Applications Not Acted On in a Timely Manner section to the following:

Department of Treasury: Home Heating Credit applicants will be advised of their right to a hearing if their applications are denied or not acted on within 45 days. They also will be afforded an opportunity to discuss any denial with Department of Treasury personnel. This pre-hearing conference will not deny the household the right to a timely hearing. Home Heating Credit hearings will be conducted by the Michigan Tax Tribunal.