



*Samish Indian Nation*

## **Low Income Household Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**

### **Introduction**

Samish Indian Nation's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a block grant program. It is designed to assist low-income individuals, particularly those with the lowest income who pay a high proportion of household income for home energy, in meeting their immediate energy needs. LIHEAP was designed to provide help to low-income households targeting the elderly, disabled and households with young children as insufficient heating and cooling can cause health and safety issues for these homes.

### **Service Offered:**

- Payment on Home energy Bills
- Energy Crisis
- Weatherization
- Energy-related Minor Home Repairs

### **Purpose:**

Funds will be used to help low-income households—particularly those with the lowest incomes—that pay a high proportion of household income for energy.

### **Eligibility**

Must have an enrolled Samish Citizen living in the household

Priority will be given to household in which one individual who is 60 years of age older, include a household member with a disability or include a young children under the age of five (5).

Must live in Ten (10) County service area: Clallam, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom.

**Household Income Documentation:**

1. A Household receiving one of the following resources will be automatically enrolled in the LIHEAP:
  - a. Social Security Benefits
  - b. Supplemental Security Income.
  - c. Food Stamps
  - d. Veterans’ and Survivors’ Pension Improvement Act of 1978
  - e. Households receiving payments under the Low-Income Home Emergency Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
2. Households with incomes that do not exceed 60 percent of the State Median income.
3. The tribe may give priority to those households with the highest energy costs or needs in relation to household income.
4. Priority may be given to households that live in Rural areas.
4. Families unable to provide documented proof of income, due to COVID-19, can complete a self- declaration of income until such time as documented proof of income can be obtained.

**Assistance Provided:**

1. Assistance to households will be accomplished by providing funds to vendors of energy assistance (Heat and Cooling) to reduce arrears of and rates charged to such households for such services.
2. Assistance to households that need minor energy home repairs.
2. The amount of assistance to each household will be based on a Matrix, approved by Tribal Council.

3. For all payments to vendors on behalf of individual households, the following will occur:
- a. Notify the vendor and the participating household the amount of assistance that has been paid on their behalf.
  - b. Ensure that the vendor will charge the eligible household, in the normal billing process, the difference between the actual amount due and the amount of the payment made by the LIHEAP.
  - c. Ensure that any agreement made between Samish Indian Nation and the Vendor will contain provisions to ensure that no household receiving assistance will be treated adversely because of such assistance.
  - d. Ensure that the vendor provides written reconciliation and confirmation on a regular basis that benefits have been credited appropriately to households and their services have been restored on a timely basis or disconnection status has been removed if applicable.
  - e. The amount of any home energy assistance benefits provided under this program for the benefit of an eligible household shall not be considered income or resources of such household (or any member thereof) for any purpose under any State, Territorial, or Tribal law, including any law relating to taxation, public assistance, or welfare programs.
  - f. Samish Indian Nation, through its appeal process, will provide an opportunity for a fair administrative hearing to individuals whose claims for assistance under a LIHWAP plan are denied or are not acted upon with reasonable promptness. Policy 13.207

# Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Effective October 1, 2022, through September 31, 2023

Minimum Benefit is 85% - Maximum Benefit is 100%

**Heating:** Minimum Dollar Amount: \$25.00 – Maximum Amount \$1500.00 Per Household

**Cooling:** Minimum Dollar Amount: \$25.00 – Maximum Amount \$1500.00 Per Household

**Rural Areas:** Minimum Dollar Amount: \$25.00 -Maximum Amount \$2000.00 Per Household

**Crisis Weatherization:** Maximum Benefit Amount: \$5000.00 Per Household

Eligibility is based upon the gross income guidelines listed below. Benefit amount can change based on funding.

Household Members	60% State Median Income (SMI)	60% State Median Income (SMI)
	ANNUAL	MONTHLY
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	\$35,037.00	\$2,919.75
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	\$45,817.00	\$3,818.08
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	\$56,598.00	\$4,716.50
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	\$67,379.00	\$5,614.92
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	\$78,159.00	\$6,513.25
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	\$88,940.00	\$7,411.67

## AUTOMATIC Enrollment with Proof of the following:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Supplemental Security Disability Income (SSDI)
- Food Stamps / Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP)
- For LIHWAP Only: Currently enrolled in LIHEAP.

## Additional factors for any member of Household. ADD 5% Benefit.

Please check benefit that applies to the household.

- Elder 60 Years of Age or Older
- Children 5 Years Old and Under
- Individual with Documented Disability
- Households in Isolated Areas

Must be verified to receive the additional 5% benefit amount.

## Income Eligibility Verification

Head of Household Name	# Of Household Members	Monthly Income	Benefit Amount
		\$	

Staff Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_