

Department of Social Services

South Dakota's Low-Income Energy Assistance Program

Authorization and History

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, authorized the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). LIEAP, administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), has authorized grants since 1982 to states, tribes and territories to assist low-income households with the costs of home energy.

Funding

LIEAP funding is allocated to States based on:

- Average temperature data
- Residential energy expenditures and heating consumption
- Number of low-income households (as determined by Census data)
- Tribal funding is determined based on the number of low-income household in the Tribal area (as determined by Census data)

State LIEAP

The State operates a heating assistance program using LIEAP funds, but does not offer a cooling program. During the 2012-2013 heating season, 23,879 households were approved for the State's energy assistance program. Eligibility and benefit levels are determined by utilizing household income, heating source, and location.

Income- For the 2013-2014 heating season household income must be at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Heating Source- South Dakota assists with the household's primary heating source. Heating sources include: coal, electric, fuel oil, natural gas, propane, and wood.

Location- South Dakota has designated four heating regions assigned to specific counties based on heating degree data

Tribal LIEAP

Tribes may apply for direct LIEAP funding. In South Dakota, six tribes administer their own LIEAP program. For those Tribes that administer their own program, they apply directly to ACF, the State has no oversight responsibilities. Those tribes are:

- Cheyenne River Sioux
- Lower Brule Sioux
- Oglala Sioux
- Rosebud Sioux
- Standing Rock Sioux
- Yankton Sioux

Program Operations

States or Tribes that administer a LIEAP program decide:

- If they want to operate a heating and/or cooling program,
- Income guidelines (within federal guidelines), and
- Benefit amounts per households