



DATE: October 27, 2025

OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM 25-10-04

SUBJECT: 2025-2026 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
Delay

TO: Executive Directors
LIHEAP Coordinators

FROM: Robert Hixson
Director
Bureau of Operations

PURPOSE

To notify County Assistance Offices (CAOs) of the LIHEAP regular season delay due to the federal government shutdown.

BACKGROUND

LIHEAP funding is allocated to states annually as part of the federal budget process. The federal government is currently shut down due to Congress not passing a federal budget by September 30, 2025. Until a budget is passed and funding is allocated and distributed for LIHEAP, the Department of Human Services will not have any current fiscal year funds to administer LIHEAP.

DISCUSSION

The LIHEAP regular season start date will be delayed from November 3, 2025, to December 3, 2025. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Access to Social Services (COMPASS) will continue to be available only for preseason applications until December 3. Crisis and Emergency Services (formerly crisis weatherization) cannot be requested until December 3. This Operations Memorandum (Ops Memo) will be updated if the delayed opening date must be changed.

LIHEAP Cash

Preseason applications should continue to be accepted and processed. The cash payment hold will remain in effect for approved preseason applications, meaning no payments or approval notices will be generated. Pending verification and rejection notices will continue to be sent.

Blank paper applications should not be distributed by the CAO to the public prior to December 3.

Applications without a barcode or barcode number received prior to December 3 should not be entered into Application Processing or scanned.

LIHEAP Crisis

If an applicant requests crisis prior to December 3, they should be advised that the season is not currently open due to the government shutdown. Crisis requests should not be accepted or entered into the Electronic Client Information System. Workers should advise applicants of any community resources available in their area.

NEXT STEPS

1. Share this information with appropriate members of your staff.
2. Direct any questions to your area manager.
3. This Ops Memo will become obsolete on June 30, 2026.