



DATE: March 31, 2026

OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM # 26-03-02

SUBJECT: Extension of the 2025-2026 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Season

TO: Executive Directors
LIHEAP Coordinators

FROM: Robert Hixson
Director
Bureau of Operations

PURPOSE

To inform County Assistance Offices (CAOs) that applications for the LIHEAP Cash and Crisis components will continue to be accepted through May 8, 2026.

SUMMARY AND CHANGE

Original Closure Date	New Closure Date
April 10, 2026	May 8, 2026

BACKGROUND

Pennsylvania's 2025-2026 LIHEAP season will be extended for four weeks, giving eligible households extra time to seek help paying their winter heating bills.

The application period, originally set to end April 10, 2026, will now close Friday, May 8, 2026.

DISCUSSION

CAOs will continue to accept paper applications for the LIHEAP Cash and Crisis components through close of business on May 8, 2026. Applications postmarked on May 8, 2026, will be accepted. Applications received without a postmark will be accepted through close of business on May 15, 2026 and date stamped May 8, 2026.

Applicants will be able to apply for LIHEAP benefits through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Access to Social Services portal until midnight on May 8, 2026. Emails, faxes, or crisis requests received via voicemail will be accepted until midnight on May 8, 2026.

At the close of business on May 8, 2026, CAO staff should check the drop box to retrieve all LIHEAP applications submitted that day. Any LIHEAP application that is received in the drop box after the close of business on May 8, 2026, will be rejected.

NEXT STEPS

1. Share this information with appropriate members of your staff.
2. Direct any questions to your Area Manager.
3. This Operations Memorandum becomes obsolete August 31, 2026