

AK LEGISLATURE FINANCE COMMITTEES FILES 2007-2008 3294

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7/26/08

**2008 Poverty Guidelines for Alaska
Income Guidelines as Published**

2008 Annual Guidelines

No in Household	2008 AK Guidelines	150%	175%	200%	225%	250%	300%	350%
1	\$13,000	19,500	22,750	26,000	29,250	32,500	39,000	45,500
2	17,500	26,250	30,625	35,000	39,375	43,750	52,500	61,250
3	22,000	33,000	38,500	44,000	49,500	55,000	66,000	77,000
4	26,500	39,750	46,375	53,000	59,625	66,250	79,500	92,750
5	31,000	46,500	54,250	62,000	69,750	77,500	93,000	108,500
6	35,500	53,250	62,125	71,000	79,875	88,750	106,500	124,250
7	40,000	60,000	70,000	80,000	90,000	100,000	120,000	140,000
8	44,500	66,750	77,875	89,000	100,125	111,250	133,500	155,750

For family units of more than eight, add \$4,500 for each additional member

2008 Monthly Guidelines

No in Household	2008 AK Guidelines	150%	175%	200%	225%	250%	300%	350%
1	\$1,083.33	1,625	1,896	2,167	2,437	2,708	3,250	3,792
2	1,458.33	2,188	2,552	2,917	3,281	3,646	4,375	5,104
3	1,833.33	2,750	3,208	3,667	4,125	4,583	5,500	6,417
4	2,208.33	3,313	3,865	4,417	4,969	5,521	6,625	7,729
5	2,583.33	3,875	4,521	5,167	5,813	6,458	7,750	9,042
6	2,958.33	4,438	5,177	5,917	6,656	7,396	8,875	10,354
7	3,333.33	5,000	5,833	6,667	7,500	8,333	10,000	11,667
8	3,708.33	5,563	6,490	7,417	8,344	9,271	11,125	12,979

For family units of more than eight, add \$375 for each additional member

RON KREHER, Chief of Operations
DHSS/DPA

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

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July 28, 2008

The Honorable Mike Chenault, Co-Chair
The Honorable Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair
The Honorable Bill Stoltze, Vice-Chair
House Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 505, 515 and 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representatives Chenault, Meyer and Stoltze:

In response to your questions on July 25, 2008 regarding the Power Cost Equalization Program, LIHEAP, and the State Heating Assistance Program, please see our responses below:

- *Last year LIHEAP was funded at \$9.7 million, and \$7.5 million was left on the table. Please address concerns that the legislature is being asked to expand a program that has discrepancies and has under-expended authorized funds. What assurances do we have that money will benefit targeted beneficiaries?*

In FY2007 the authorized budget for LIHEAP was \$9,708.2. The state portion of the federal funds received for the program was \$8,630.7. In FY07 85% of the block grant went to recipient benefits. The remainder covered administration, an RSA to AHFC for weatherization, and a portion carried over for FY08 start-up, as allowed under LIHEAP rules.

- *How do you factor children in the point system when they are shared between parents?*

In situations of shared custody, the child is considered a member of both households when determining household size.

- *Is it possible to add degree days into the equation?*

The Division of Public assistance uses AKWarm, a software program provided by AHFC as a tool to develop the Community Heating Cost Points used in the equation for determining LIHEAP payment levels. AKWarm programming uses a range of Alaska-specific databases including degree days.

- *How much overlap is there between the PCE program and LIHEAP? Can you determine how much overlap will occur with the new State Heating Assistance Program? Can you determine how much overlap will occur with the new federal poverty guidelines used in HB 4006?*

The Power Cost Equalization Program and LIHEAP, strictly speaking, do not provide overlapping services. PCE's purpose is to "provide economic assistance to customers in rural Alaska" to offset the high kilowatt-hour charge for electricity. LIHEAP's purpose is to offset the high costs of heating homes. According to the PCE statistical report for 2007, the program served 183 communities statewide. In 2008, the state's heating assistance program served

households in 83 communities benefiting from PCE. Statewide, few households served by LIHEAP heat their homes with electricity. It is very unlikely that a significant number of households in communities served both by PCE and the state's heating assistance program use electricity to heat their dwellings. Depending on changes in PCE that may expand the number of participating communities, it appears that the new, state-funded heating assistance program will have little overlap with PCE.

- *Is it possible to determine what percentage of the total LIHEAP funds end up in each region/census district in Alaska?*

Census Areas/Boroughs	% HAP benefits issued in FY08	Households Served	Avg. Payment
Aleutians East/West Boroughs ¹	0.03%	6	\$562
Anchorage Borough	10.75%	1,848	\$605
Bristol Bay Borough	0.39%	29	\$1,396
Denali Borough	0.28%	31	\$943
Dillingham Census Area	4.81%	296	\$1,690
Fairbanks North Star Borough	11.92%	1,254	\$988
Haines Borough	0.27%	46	\$615
Juneau City and Borough ¹	0.89%	164	\$563
Kenai Peninsula Borough	8.30%	1,250	\$690
Ketchikan Gateway Borough ¹	0.46%	90	\$535
Kodiak Island Borough	1.40%	194	\$751
Lake and Peninsula Borough	2.08%	127	\$1,703
Mat-Su Borough	10.75%	1,725	\$647
Nome Census Area	21.73%	862	\$2,620
North Slope Borough	2.67%	133	\$2,088
Northwest Arctic Borough	16.95%	599	\$2,941
Prince of Wales/Outer KTN Census Area ¹	0.30%	50	\$627
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	2.41%	225	\$1,115
Skagway/Hoonah/Angoon Census Area ¹	0.20%	32	\$664
Sitka Borough ¹	0.24%	41	\$612
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	2.67%	275	\$1,008
Wrangell/Petersburg Census Area ¹	0.46%	77	\$622

¹ Communities in these areas borough are also served by Tribal Heating Assistance Programs

Note: Households residing in the Yakutat Borough, Wade Hampton Census Area, Bethel Census Area, and Yukon-Koyukuk Census area are served by Tribal heating Assistance Programs

- *Can you provide additional information on the Tribal block grants? Who gets the block grants, and how much funding is it? Who administers the programs?*

Tribal Organization	FY2008 LIHEAP Block Grant Share	Approx. Share of LIHEAP Block Grant	Households Served FY2007
Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association	\$91,347	0.85%	115
Association of Village Council Presidents	\$1,480,231	13.8%	1,729
Kenaitze Indian Tribes	\$72,823	0.68%	100
Kuskowim Native association	\$222,062	2.07%	266
Orutsararmuit Native Council	\$88,172	0.82%	105
Seldovia Village Tribe	\$7,511	0.07%	6
Tanana Chiefs Conference	\$829,869	7.75%	969
Yakutat Tlingit Tribe	21,414	0.20%	36
Tlingit & Haida Regional Housing Authority	\$473,515	4.42%	1,098

The block grants are received and administered by tribal/Native organizations that submit a grant proposal and program plan that is approved by the federal government. FY2008 data on number of households served in 2008 by tribal programs will not be available until October 2008.

- *The data set for Anchorage on the information you provided appears to be wrong. Is it possible to look at this again?*

This report was originally programmed to only display 9 fields. It has been modified to show additional fields. The total amount of benefits issued to Anchorage-area households in 2008 was \$1,045,588.73 (see attached document).

- *We would like several different illustrations based on different factors of how a household's heating assistance benefit is determined. Can you determine what the total benefit would be for several situations at the 150%, 225%, and 350% levels as a comparison?*

Using the proposed method for calculating the AKIAP benefits under HB4006, an Anchorage household of four (including a child under 5) with income of \$92,750 (350% FPG) that lives in a three bedroom home and heating with oil would get an annual grant of \$1,020.

With an income of \$59,625 (225% FPG) the household would receive a grant of \$1,785.

The same household with an income of \$39,750 (150% FPG) would be eligible for \$2,295.

In Dillingham, an identical household with income at the 350% level would receive \$1,365. With income at the 225% level, the household would be eligible for a payment of \$2,025, and at the 150% level the household would receive \$2,926.

- *Can you tell us what the average state income is? By region?*

Department of Labor would be the best source for this information.

- *Can we see the whole picture? Is it possible to determine the effect of each piece of legislation, where the benefit accrues, where there is overlap between the PCE, LIHEAP, State HAP, the gas tax, and the \$1,200 rebate? Is one segment of the population or is one region of the state benefiting more than another?*

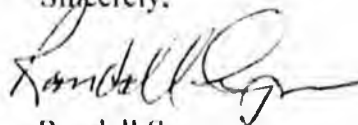
The response to Question 4 addresses the question of overlap between PCE and LIHEAP. While there is no historic information about the new populations to be served by the state-funded programs, the response to question 5 indicates how benefits are currently distributed across the state. It would be safe to assume that the distribution of benefits from the state-funded programs will be similar. Tribal heating assistance programs largely serve households in rural areas of the state and the response to question 6 provides some information about the impacts of those programs. DHSS is not in a position to assess the statewide impact of the \$1,200 rebate or the gas tax.

- *What percentage of household income is used for heating costs, by region?*

This information is not readily available to DHSS.

If you have additional questions regarding this issue, please contact me at 465-1612.

Sincerely,



Randall Super
Acting Deputy Commissioner

Enclosure

cc: Representative Mike Hawker, Capitol Building, Room 502
Representative John Harris, Capitol Building, Room 208
Representative Mike Kelly, Capitol Building, Room 513
Representative Bill Thomas, Capitol Building, Room 434
Representative Harry Crawford, Capitol Building, Room 400
Representative Les Gara, Capitol Building, Room 500
Representative Reggie Joule, Capitol Building, Room 421
Representative Mary Nelson, Capitol Building, Room 415
William Hogan, Commissioner
William J. Streur, Deputy Commissioner
Jay Butler, Chief Medical Officer
Sherry Hill, Assistant Commissioner
Wilda Laughlin, Special Assistant
Kate Bowns, Acting Budget Manager
Mary Sutton, Budget Analyst, Office of Management and Budget
Gary Zepp, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Finance

PARTICIPATION AND EXPENDITURES BY COMMUNITY

Community Name	Regular Cases		Expedited Cases		Total Cases	
AKHIOK	3,400.00	5	.00	0	4,998.00	5
ALEKNAGIK	2,465.00	3	.00	0	3,623.55	3
AMBLER	33,915.00	18	6,758.28	2	58,220.45	20
ANAKTUVUK PASS	18,035.00	14	250.00	1	26,115.20	15
ANCHOR POINT	28,290.00	73	1,955.00	4	44,107.65	77
ANCHORAGE	557,692.51	1346	172,630.68	388	1,045,588.73	1734
ANDERSON	4,930.00	7	935.00	1	8,621.55	8
ATQASUK	7,140.00	4	.00	0	10,495.80	4
AUKE BAY	510.00	1	.00	0	749.70	1
BARROW	12,580.00	23	1,020.00	3	19,992.00	26
BELUGA	680.00	1	595.00	1	1,874.25	2
BIG LAKE	41,100.00	94	12,399.80	23	77,432.20	117
BPEVIG MISSION	100,103.45	55	3,230.00	2	148,317.15	57
BUCKLAND	76,755.00	35	22,100.00	9	145,316.85	44
CANTWELL	4,420.00	6	.00	0	6,497.40	6
CHENEGA BAY	2,040.00	3	.00	0	2,998.80	3
CHICKALOON	425.00	2	.00	0	624.75	2
CHIGNIK	1,785.00	3	.00	0	2,623.95	3
CHIGNIK LAGOON	1,190.00	2	.00	0	1,749.30	2
CHIGNIK LAKE	2,040.00	3	.00	0	2,998.80	3
CHINIYAK	680.00	2	510.00	1	1,749.30	3
CHRISTOCHINA	935.00	1	.00	0	1,374.45	1
CHITINA	3,760.00	6	.00	0	4,998.45	6
CHUGIAK	15,959.85	36	6,970.00	13	33,236.95	49
CLAM CULCH	9,965.00	23	.00	0	14,119.80	23
CLAPPS POINT	2,295.00	2	.00	0	3,373.65	2
CLEAR	595.00	1	.00	0	874.65	1
COFFMAN COVE	425.00	1	.00	0	624.75	1
COOPER LANDING	3,400.00	7	255.00	1	5,372.85	8
COPPER CENTER	45,424.00	61	4,760.00	5	72,554.96	66
CORDOVA	18,275.00	35	850.00	1	28,113.75	36
CRAIG	1,309.85	4	.00	0	1,749.30	4
DEERING	50,890.00	24	2,720.00	1	76,221.70	25
DELTA JUNCTION	121,938.55	158	4,930.00	6	183,677.45	164
DEVALI PARK	1,020.00	3	.00	0	1,499.40	3
DILLINGHAM	33,720.00	42	4,930.00	6	56,228.00	48
DIOMEDE	41,750.00	24	3,400.00	3	63,726.75	27
DOUGLAS	2,125.00	7	680.00	2	4,123.35	9
DUTCH HARBOR	510.00	1	255.00	1	1,124.55	2
EAGLE RIVER	17,859.62	44	5,259.80	12	33,111.73	56
EDNA BAY	425.00	1	.00	0	624.75	1
EJEGIE	5,695.00	5	.00	0	8,371.65	5
ERKOE	17,255.00	15	.00	0	25,364.85	15
ELFIN COVE	1,105.00	2	.00	0	1,624.35	2
ELIM	61,900.00	33	22,611.55	10	120,706.25	43
ESLER	7,395.00	13	425.00	1	11,295.65	14
FAIRBANKS	433,463.78	201	142,545.58	196	624,338.48	997
FORT WALSWORTH	1,625.00	1	.00	0	1,625.00	1
FRITS CREEK	5,185.00	13	.00	0	7,621.95	13
GAMBANA	20,740.00	39	4,165.00	4	16,610.35	33
GAMBELL	159,090.00	79	21,845.00	10	264,270.70	89
GLENWOOD	3,230.00	8	.00	0	4,748.10	8
GLENHALLAN	33,990.00	49	4,590.00	5	56,477.60	54

PARTICIPATION AND EXPENDITURES BY COMMUNITY

Community Name	Regular Cases		Expedited Cases		Total Cases	
COLOVIN	34,085.75	19	4,165.00	2	56,228.25	21
GULKANA	595.00	1	.00	0	874.65	1
GUSTAVUS	5,850.00	14	595.00	1	9,121.65	15
HAINES	16,945.00	41	2,635.00	5	28,289.10	46
HEALY	7,055.00	12	935.00	1	11,745.30	13
HOLLIS	935.00	2	.00	0	1,374.45	2
HOMER	104,530.71	227	8,595.35	20	162,752.55	247
HOPE	255.00	1	.00	0	374.85	1
HOUSTON	11,959.75	27	1,870.00	4	19,742.35	31
HYDER	1,360.00	4	.00	0	1,999.20	4
IGIUGIG	2,125.00	2	.00	0	3,123.75	2
ILIAMNA	12,495.00	9	2,210.00	2	21,616.35	11
JUNEAU	45,499.40	114	16,015.00	40	87,481.90	154
KAKTOVIK	2,465.00	2	.00	0	3,623.55	2
KARLUK	4,435.00	5	.00	0	5,873.20	5
KASILOF	34,080.00	79	6,375.00	11	59,351.35	90
KENAI	86,556.07	181	22,900.84	45	156,564.61	226
KENNY LAKE	1,445.00	2	.00	0	2,124.15	2
KETCHIKAN	26,543.69	69	4,184.75	11	43,359.69	80
KIANA	66,895.00	34	26,945.00	11	137,944.80	45
KING SALMON	2,295.00	3	2,465.00	2	6,997.20	5
KIVALINA	43,184.25	24	54,145.00	25	142,193.10	49
KOBUK	36,125.00	16	.00	0	53,103.75	16
KODIAK	38,999.65	83	8,042.51	18	68,215.66	101
KOKHANOK	22,865.00	18	1,020.00	1	35,110.95	19
KOLIGANEK	23,120.00	22	5,525.00	4	42,108.15	26
KOTZEBUE	130,044.25	90	40,885.00	26	245,405.05	116
KOYUK	86,700.00	47	13,940.00	7	147,940.80	54
LARSEN BAY	4,505.00	9	.00	0	6,622.35	9
LEVELOCK	3,910.00	4	.00	0	5,747.70	4
MANLEY HOT SPRIN	340.00	1	.00	0	499.80	1
MANOKOTAK	62,475.00	49	13,430.00	9	111,580.35	58
MENTASTA LAKE	7,140.00	7	1,955.00	3	13,369.65	10
MOOSE PASS	1,445.00	3	.00	0	2,124.15	3
NAKNEK	12,920.00	16	2,210.00	2	22,241.10	18
NANWALEK	7,735.00	12	510.00	1	11,121.40	13
NAUKATI	4,335.00	11	1,360.00	3	9,371.65	14
NEW STUYAHOK	44,575.00	37	765.00	1	65,474.80	38
NEWHALEN	6,715.00	5	7,225.00	4	20,491.80	9
NIWISHI	19,805.00	43	6,800.00	13	39,109.35	56
NIKOLAEVSY	5,440.00	11	340.00	1	8,496.60	12
NINILCHIK	25,415.00	50	1,625.00	3	39,664.20	53
NOATKA	103,185.00	43	33,575.00	15	196,964.65	58
NOME	54,395.00	48	3,060.00	2	83,342.60	50
NONDALTON	44,215.00	30	8,075.00	6	76,220.05	36
NOORVIK	109,310.00	58	26,435.00	13	199,545.15	71
NORTH POLE	171,606.93	216	63,161.23	71	340,638.58	287
NULASUT	31,760.00	13	.00	0	31,987.20	13
OLD HARBOR	19,805.00	36	3,145.00	5	33,736.50	41
QUINNIAE	8,075.00	17	.00	0	11,870.25	17
PALMER	732,410.78	298	22,785.74	46	222,683.85	344
PADDO BAY	3,100.00	3	.00	0	4,998.00	3
PELICAN	765.00	2	.00	0	1,124.55	2

PARTICIPATION AND EXPENDITURES BY COMMUNITY

Community Name	Regular Cases		Expedited Cases		Total Cases	
PERRYVILLE	9,010.00	15	680.00	1	14,244.30	16
PETERS CREEK	340.00	1	.00	0	499.80	1
PETERSBURG	12,325.00	30	1,615.00	4	20,491.80	34
PILOT POINT	3,740.00	4	1,020.00	1	6,997.20	5
PLEASANT VALLEY	1,190.00	1	.00	0	1,749.30	1
POINT BAKER	5,100.00	8	.00	0	7,497.00	8
POINT HOPE	77,735.00	43	8,670.00	4	126,075.35	47
POINT LAY	3,055.00	2	.00	0	3,374.60	2
PORT ALEXANDER	255.00	1	.00	0	374.85	1
PORT ALSWORTH	1,530.00	1	.00	0	2,249.10	1
PORT GRAHAM	9,605.00	15	340.00	1	13,620.40	16
PORT HEIDEN	6,630.00	8	.00	0	9,746.10	8
PORT LIONS	6,970.00	11	1,700.00	2	12,704.95	13
PORT PROTECTION	680.00	1	.00	0	999.60	1
SAINT MICHAEL	71,570.00	39	6,970.00	4	115,453.80	43
SALCHA	25,872.95	32	6,429.40	8	44,857.05	40
SAND POINT	1,300.00	2	.00	0	1,499.75	2
SAVOONGA	163,200.00	80	60,945.00	29	329,493.15	109
SELAWIK	197,965.55	91	61,710.00	30	376,329.55	121
SELDOVIA	7,405.00	13	510.00	1	10,871.30	14
SEWARD	26,234.70	64	3,655.00	9	43,233.00	73
SHAKTOOLIK	39,355.00	26	3,995.00	2	63,724.50	28
SHISHMAREF	165,380.00	77	36,210.00	18	294,633.55	95
SHUNGNAK	82,705.00	32	5,950.00	2	130,322.85	34
SITKA	12,835.00	31	4,505.00	10	25,090.30	41
SKAGWAY	3,400.00	5	850.00	1	6,247.50	6
SKWENTNA	850.00	2	.00	0	1,249.50	2
SLANA	6,120.00	8	510.00	1	9,746.10	9
SOLDOTNA	92,841.07	184	19,870.36	36	161,443.01	220
SOUTH NAKNEK	5,015.00	4	2,635.00	2	11,245.50	6
STEBBINS	117,640.00	79	24,055.00	15	208,291.65	94
STERLING	31,169.61	62	10,795.00	18	61,225.50	80
SUTTON	17,945.00	35	5,015.00	10	32,987.45	45
TALKEETNA	31,439.25	63	3,230.00	5	49,730.40	68
TATITLEK	13,345.00	14	680.00	1	20,616.75	15
TELLER	60,500.00	37	6,800.00	3	97,462.25	40
TENAKEE	2,125.00	7	.00	0	3,123.75	7
THOPNE BAY	5,469.75	14	.00	0	7,746.90	14
TOGIAK	101,150.00	83	16,235.00	12	172,555.95	95
TOK	44,075.00	59	2,295.00	2	67,223.90	61
TRAPPER CREEK	18,020.00	38	2,210.00	4	28,739.35	42
TWIN HILLS	13,515.00	11	.00	0	19,867.05	11
TWO RIVERS	8,075.00	12	1,785.00	2	14,494.20	14
TYONEK	6,630.00	14	.00	0	9,746.10	14
UNALAKLEET	89,690.00	55	.00	0	128,200.55	55
UNALASKA	170.00	1	340.00	1	749.70	2
VALDEM	32,130.00	51	5,695.00	8	55,602.75	59
WAINWRIGHT	39,871.35	23	.00	0	55,731.50	23
WALES	33,660.00	17	2,320.00	1	52,378.80	18
WARD COVE	2,896.00	9	340.00	1	4,748.10	10
WASILLA	321,307.54	247	31,180.40	170	579,502.09	917
WHALE PASS	255.00	1	.00	0	374.85	1
WHITE MOUNTAIN	35,360.00	20	7,905.00	4	63,040.25	24

PARTICIPATION AND EXPENDITURES BY COMMUNITY

Community Name	Regular Cases	Expedited Cases	Total Cases
WHITTIER	1,360.00 4	.00 0	1,999.20 4
WILLOW	65,799.00 143	6,885.00 14	104,084.70 157
WRANGELL	17,525.00 40	1,530.00 3	27,364.60 43
Community Name	Regular Cases	Expedited Cases	Total Cases
Grand Total	\$5,898,888.61 7769	\$1,281,606.27 1586	\$10,391,401.24 9355

LIHEAP @ 150%

State Of Alaska Dept. H&SS
HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

07/09/08

PARTICIPATION AND EXPENDITURES BY COMMUNITY

7/25/08

Jay Lueck

Community Name	Regular Cases	Expedited Cases	Total Cases			
AKHIOK	3,400.00	5	.00	0	4,998.00	5
ALEKNAGIK	2,465.00	3	.00	0	3,623.55	3
AMBLER	33,915.00	18	5,865.00	2	58,220.45	20
ANAKTUVUK PASS	18,035.00	14	250.00	1	26,115.20	15
ANCHOR POINT	28,290.00	73	1,955.00	4	44,107.65	77
ANCHORAGE	557,522.51	1345	172,630.68	388	45,418.73	1733
ANDERSON	4,930.00	7	935.00	1	8,621.55	8
ATQASUK	7,140.00	4	.00	0	10,495.80	4
AUKE BAY	510.00	1	.00	0	749.70	1
BARROW	12,580.00	23	1,020.00	3	19,992.00	26
BELUGA	680.00	1	595.00	1	1,874.25	2
BIG LAKE	41,100.00	94	12,240.00	23	77,432.20	117
BREVIK MISSION	100,103.45	55	3,230.00	2	148,317.15	57
BUCKLAND	76,755.00	35	22,100.00	9	145,316.85	44
CANTWELL	4,420.00	6	.00	0	6,497.40	6
CHENEGA BAY	2,040.00	3	.00	0	2,998.80	3
CHICKALOON	425.00	2	.00	0	624.75	2
CHIGNIK	1,785.00	3	.00	0	2,623.95	3
CHIGNIK LAGOON	1,190.00	2	.00	0	1,749.30	2
CHIGNIK LAKE	2,040.00	3	.00	0	2,998.80	3
CHINIAK	680.00	2	510.00	1	1,749.30	3
CHISTOCHINA	935.00	1	.00	0	1,374.45	1
CHITINA	3,760.00	6	.00	0	4,998.45	6
CHUGIAK	15,959.85	36	6,970.00	13	33,236.95	49
CLAM GULCH	9,965.00	23	.00	0	14,119.80	23
CLARKS POINT	2,295.00	2	.00	0	3,373.65	2
CLEAR	595.00	1	.00	0	874.65	1
COFFMAN COVE	425.00	1	.00	0	624.75	1
COOPER LANDING	3,400.00	7	255.00	1	5,372.85	8
COPPER CENTER	45,424.00	61	4,760.00	5	72,554.96	66
CORDOVA	18,275.00	35	850.00	1	28,113.75	36
CRAIG	1,309.85	4	.00	0	1,749.30	4
DEERING	50,890.00	24	2,720.00	1	76,221.70	25
DELTA JUNCTION	121,938.55	158	4,930.00	6	183,677.45	164
DENALI PARK	1,020.00	3	.00	0	1,499.40	3
DILLINGHAM	33,720.00	42	4,930.00	6	56,228.00	48
DIOMEDE	41,750.00	24	3,400.00	3	63,726.75	27
DOUGLAS	2,125.00	7	680.00	2	4,123.35	9
DUTCH HARBOR	510.00	1	255.00	1	1,124.55	2
EAGLE RIVER	17,859.62	44	5,259.80	12	33,111.73	56
EDNA BAY	425.00	1	.00	0	624.75	1
EGEGIK	5,695.00	5	.00	0	8,371.65	5
EKWOK	17,255.00	15	.00	0	25,364.25	15
ELFIN COVE	1,105.00	2	.00	0	1,624.35	2
ELIM	61,900.00	33	22,611.55	10	120,706.25	43
ESTER	7,395.00	13	425.00	1	11,295.65	14
FAIRBANKS	432,824.58	701	142,305.88	196	824,338.48	897
FORT WAINWRIGHT	1,625.00	1	.00	0	1,625.00	1
FRITZ CREEK	5,185.00	13	.00	0	7,621.95	13
GAKONA	20,740.00	29	4,165.00	4	36,610.35	33
GAMBELL	159,090.00	79	21,845.00	10	264,270.70	89
BIRDWOOD	3,230.00	8	.00	0	4,748.10	8
GLENNALLEN	33,990.00	49	4,590.00	5	56,477.60	54

PARTICIPATION AND EXPENDITURES BY COMMUNITY

Community Name	Regular Cases		Expedited Cases		Total Cases	
GOLOVIN	34,085.75	19	4,165.00	2	56,228.25	21
GULKANA	595.00	1	.00	0	874.65	1
GUSTAVUS	6,020.00	15	595.00	1	9,291.65	16
HAINES	16,945.00	41	2,635.00	5	28,289.10	46
HEALY	7,055.00	12	935.00	1	11,745.30	13
HOLLIS	935.00	2	.00	0	1,374.45	2
HOMER	103,980.00	227	8,595.35	20	162,752.55	247
HOPE	255.00	1	.00	0	374.85	1
HOUSTON	11,959.75	27	1,870.00	4	19,742.35	31
HYDER	1,360.00	4	.00	0	1,999.20	4
IGIUGIG	2,125.00	2	.00	0	3,123.75	2
ILLIAMNA	12,495.00	9	2,210.00	2	21,616.35	11
JUNEAU	45,379.55	114	16,015.00	40	87,481.90	154
KAKTOVIK	2,465.00	2	.00	0	3,623.55	2
KARLUK	4,435.00	5	.00	0	5,873.20	5
KASILOF	34,080.00	79	6,375.00	11	59,351.35	90
KENAI	86,556.07	181	22,900.84	45	156,564.61	226
KENNY LAKE	1,445.00	2	.00	0	2,124.15	2
KETCHIKAN	26,514.50	69	4,184.75	11	43,359.69	80
KIANA	65,895.00	34	26,945.00	11	137,944.80	45
KING SALMON	2,295.00	3	2,465.00	2	6,997.20	5
KIVALINA	43,184.25	24	54,145.00	25	142,193.10	49
KOBUK	36,125.00	16	.00	0	53,103.75	16
KODIAK	38,774.65	82	8,042.51	18	67,990.66	100
KOKHANOK	22,865.00	18	1,020.00	1	35,110.95	19
KOLIGANEK	23,120.00	22	5,525.00	4	42,108.15	26
KOTZEBUE	130,044.25	90	40,885.00	26	245,405.05	116
KOYUK	86,700.00	47	13,940.00	7	147,940.80	54
LARSEN BAY	4,505.00	9	.00	0	6,622.35	9
LEVELOCK	3,910.00	4	.00	0	5,747.70	4
MANLEY HOT SPRIN	340.00	1	.00	0	499.80	1
MANOKOTAK	62,475.00	49	13,430.00	9	111,580.35	58
MENTASTA LAKE	7,140.00	7	1,955.00	3	13,369.65	10
MOOSE PASS	1,445.00	3	.00	0	2,124.15	3
NAKNEK	12,920.00	16	2,210.00	2	22,241.10	18
NANWALEK	7,735.00	12	510.00	1	11,121.40	13
NAUKATI	4,335.00	11	1,360.00	3	8,371.65	14
NEW STUYAHOK	44,575.00	37	765.00	1	65,474.80	38
NEWHALEN	6,715.00	5	7,225.00	4	20,491.80	9
NIKISKI	19,805.00	43	6,800.00	13	39,109.35	56
NIKOLAEVSK	5,440.00	11	340.00	1	8,496.60	12
NINILCHIK	25,415.00	50	1,625.00	3	39,664.20	53
NOATK	103,195.00	43	33,575.00	15	196,364.65	58
NOME	54,395.00	48	3,060.00	2	83,342.60	50
NONDALTON	44,215.00	30	9,075.00	6	76,220.05	36
NOORVIK	109,310.00	58	26,435.00	13	199,545.15	71
NORTH POLE	171,606.93	216	63,161.23	71	340,638.58	287
NUIQSUT	21,760.00	13	.00	0	31,987.20	13
OLD HARBOR	19,805.00	36	3,145.00	5	33,736.50	41
OUZINKIE	8,075.00	17	.00	0	11,870.25	17
PALMER	132,410.78	298	22,785.74	46	222,683.85	344
PEDRO BAY	3,400.00	3	.00	0	4,998.00	3
FELICAN	765.00	2	.00	0	1,124.55	2

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PARTICIPATION AND EXPENDITURES BY COMMUNITY

Community Name	Regular Cases	Expedited Cases	Total Cases			
PERRYVILLE	9,010.00	15	680.00	1	14,244.30	16
PETERS CREEK	340.00	1	.00	0	499.80	1
PETERSBURG	12,325.00	30	1,615.00	4	20,491.80	34
PILOT POINT	3,740.00	4	1,020.00	1	6,997.20	5
PLEASANT VALLEY	1,190.00	1	.00	0	1,749.30	1
POINT BAKER	5,100.00	8	.00	0	7,497.00	8
POINT HOPE	77,735.00	43	8,670.00	4	126,075.35	47
POINT LAY	3,055.00	2	.00	0	3,374.60	2
PORT ALEXANDER	255.00	1	.00	0	374.85	1
PORT ALSWORTH	1,530.00	1	.00	0	2,249.10	1
PORT GRAHAM	9,605.00	15	340.00	1	13,620.40	16
PORT HEIDEN	6,630.00	8	.00	0	9,746.10	8
PORT LIONS	6,970.00	11	1,700.00	2	12,704.95	13
PORT PROTECTION	680.00	1	.00	0	999.60	1
SAINT MICHAEL	71,570.00	39	6,970.00	4	115,453.80	43
SALCHA	25,872.95	32	6,429.40	8	44,857.05	40
SAND POINT	1,300.00	2	.00	0	1,499.75	2
SAVOONGA	163,200.00	80	60,945.00	29	329,493.15	109
SELAWIK	197,965.55	91	61,710.00	30	376,329.55	121
SELDOVIA	7,405.00	13	510.00	1	10,871.30	14
SEWARD	26,234.70	64	3,655.00	9	43,233.00	73
SHAKTOOLIK	39,355.00	26	3,995.00	2	63,724.50	28
SHISHMAREF	165,380.00	77	36,210.00	18	294,633.55	95
SHUNGNAC	82,705.00	32	5,950.00	2	130,322.85	34
SITKA	12,835.00	31	4,505.00	10	25,090.30	41
SKAGWAY	3,400.00	5	850.00	1	6,247.50	6
SKWENTNA	850.00	2	.00	0	1,249.50	2
SLANA	6,120.00	8	510.00	1	9,746.10	9
SOLDOTNA	92,556.22	183	19,870.36	36	161,278.01	219
SOUTH NAKNEK	5,015.00	4	2,635.00	2	11,245.50	6
STEBBINS	117,640.00	79	24,055.00	15	208,291.65	94
STERLING	31,169.61	62	10,795.00	18	61,225.50	80
SUTTON	17,945.00	35	5,015.00	10	32,987.45	45
TALKEETNA	31,439.25	63	3,230.00	5	49,730.40	68
TATITLEK	13,345.00	14	680.00	1	20,616.75	15
TELLER	60,500.00	37	6,800.00	3	97,462.25	40
TENAKEE	2,125.00	7	.00	0	3,123.75	7
THORNE BAY	5,469.75	14	.00	0	7,746.90	14
TOGIAK	101,150.00	83	16,235.00	12	172,555.95	95
TOK	44,075.00	59	2,295.00	2	67,223.90	61
TRAPPER CREEK	17,860.20	38	2,210.00	4	28,739.35	42
TWIN HILLS	13,515.00	11	.00	0	19,867.05	11
TWO RIVERS	8,075.00	12	1,785.00	2	14,494.20	14
TYONEK	6,630.00	14	.00	0	9,746.10	14
UNALAKLEET	88,690.00	55	.00	0	128,200.55	55
UNALASKA	170.00	1	340.00	1	749.70	2
VALDEZ	32,130.00	51	5,695.00	8	55,602.75	59
WAINWRIGHT	39,870.00	23	.00	0	55,730.15	23
WALES	33,660.00	17	2,380.00	1	52,978.80	18
WARD COVE	2,890.00	9	340.00	1	4,748.10	10
WASILLA	321,187.69	747	81,180.40	170	579,502.09	917
WHALE PASS	255.00	1	.00	0	374.85	1
WHITE MOUNTAIN	35,360.00	20	7,905.00	4	63,040.25	24

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PARTICIPATION AND EXPENDITURES BY COMMUNITY

Community Name	Regular Cases	Expedited Cases	Total Cases
WHITTIER	1,360.00 4	.00 0	1,999.20 4
WILLOW	65,319.60 143	6,885.00 14	104,084.70 157
WRANGELL	17,525.00 40	1,530.00 3	27,364.60 43
Community Name	Regular Cases	Expedited Cases	Total Cases
Grand Total	\$5,896,279.41 7767	\$1,280,313.49 1586	\$10,391,009.89 9353

Sarah Fisher-Goad, Deputy Director of Operations, Alaska Energy Authority, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development

David Teal, Director, Legislative Finance Division

Jay Livey, Staff, Senator Hoffman

Teleconference:

Bob Pickett, Chairman, Regulatory Commission of Alaska

Dennis Wheeler, Commissioner, Regulatory Commission of Alaska

Richard Gazaway, Hearing Examiner, Regulatory Commission of Alaska

Questions:

Chris Poag, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Law (JNU)

Stacy Kraly, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Law

Mr. Sherwood

Mr. Kreher

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State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 24, 2008

To: House Finance Committee Members

From: Representative Kevin Meyer, Co-Chairman *Kevin Meyer*
House Finance Committee

RE: Back-up information for State of Alaska Heating Assistance Programs

Attached to this memo is the Federal Fiscal Year 2008 State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services proposed grant application and plan for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

I found the information useful in understanding the home energy programs that we currently offer as well as the eligibility guideline and how benefits are determined.

The total document is 46 pages long. The first ten pages of the document appear to be an introduction and other documents required by the federal government for submitting the State plan.

The discussion of the heating assistance programs and qualifications and benefits begins on Page 11.

I hope that you find this helpful for our discussion.

7/26/08

Fiscal Year 2008



**State of Alaska
Heating Assistance Program
Division of Public Assistance
Department of Health & Social Services**

August 2007

**Karleen Jackson, Ph.D.
Commissioner**

**Sarah Palin
Governor**

State of Alaska

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State of Alaska

Introduction

This document is the State of Alaska's proposed grant application and plan for the fiscal year (FY) 2008 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The plan covers the period of October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008.

The purpose of the LIHEAP program is to provide assistance to low income households to offset the high cost of home heating. The State's LIHEAP block grant is administered by the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Division of Public Assistance, and is known as the Heating Assistance Program (HAP).

This plan addresses the procedures used by the DHSS Heating Assistance Program. The LIHEAP funded heating assistance programs operated by tribal organizations are independent, and not subject to the provisions of this plan.

LIHEAP grantees must submit a detailed plan once every three years. In the remaining two years, grantees may submit their plan in an abbreviated format. This State of Alaska LIHEAP plan is submitted in the abbreviated format.

This FY 2008 detailed plan describes the changes from the FY 2007 plan. For more information contact the Heating Assistance Program, 400 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 301, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1700; voice/TDD (907) 465-3058; In Juneau Fax (907) 465-3319. In all other areas Fax toll free 1-888-282-3319; or email: liheap@alaska.gov.

The descriptions of this year's changes are followed by the certification by the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services, Karleen Jackson, Ph.D., to the assurances required under the current LIHEAP statute. A copy of the Governor's delegation of LIHEAP signatory authority to the Commissioner is included with this application.

State of Alaska

***Assurances**

The State of Alaska agrees to:

- (1) use the funds available under this title to--
 - (A) conduct outreach activities and provide assistance to low income households in meeting their home energy costs, particularly those with the lowest incomes that pay a high proportion of household income for home energy, consistent with paragraph (5);
 - (B) intervene in energy crisis situations;
 - (C) provide low-cost residential weatherization and other cost-effective energy-related home repair; and
 - (D) plan, develop, and administer the State's program under this title including leveraging programs,

and the State agrees not to use such funds for any purposes other than those specified in this title;

- (2) make payments under this title only with respect to--
 - (A) households in which one or more individuals are receiving--
 - (i) assistance under the State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act;
 - (ii) supplemental security income payments under title XVI of the Social Security Act;
 - (iii) food stamps under the Food Stamp Act of 1977; or
 - (iv) payments under section 415, 521, 541, or 542 of title 38, United States Code, or under section 306 of the Veterans' and Survivors' Pension Improvement Act of 1978; or
 - (B) households with incomes which do not exceed the greater of--
 - (i) an amount equal to 150 percent of the poverty level for such State; or
 - (ii) an amount equal to 60 percent of the State median income; except that a State may not exclude a household from eligibility in a fiscal year solely on the basis of household income if such income is less than 110 percent of the poverty level for such State, but the State may give priority to those households with the highest home energy costs or needs in relation to household income.

State of Alaska

- (3) conduct outreach activities designed to assure that eligible households, especially households with elderly individuals or disabled individuals, or both, and households with high home energy burdens, are made aware of the assistance available under this title, and any similar energy-related assistance available under subtitle B of title VI (relating to community services block grant program) or under any other provision of law which carries out programs which were administered under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 before the date of the enactment of this Act;
- (4) coordinate its activities under this title with similar and related programs administered by the Federal Government and such State, particularly low-income energy-related programs under subtitle B of title VI (relating to community services block grant program), under the supplemental security income program, under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act, under title XX of the Social Security Act, under the low-income weatherization assistance program under title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act, or under any other provision of law which carries out programs which were administered under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 before the date of the enactment of this Act;
- (5) provide, in a timely manner, that the highest level of assistance will be furnished to those households which have the lowest incomes and the highest energy costs or needs in relation to income, taking into account family size, except that the State may not differentiate in implementing this section between the households described in clauses 2(A) and 2(B) of this subsection;
- (6) to the extent it is necessary to designate local administrative agencies in order to carry out the purposes of this title, to give special consideration, in the designation of such agencies, to any local public or private nonprofit agency which was receiving Federal funds under any low-income energy assistance program or weatherization program under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 or any other provision of law on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, except that--
 - (A) the State shall, before giving such special consideration, determine that the agency involved meets program and fiscal requirements established by the State; and
 - (B) if there is no such agency because of any change in the assistance furnished to programs for economically disadvantaged persons, then the State shall give special consideration in the designation of local administrative agencies to any successor agency which is operated in substantially the same manner as the predecessor agency which did receive funds for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the determination is made;
- (7) if the State chooses to pay home energy suppliers directly, establish procedures to --
 - (A) notify each participating household of the amount of assistance paid on its behalf;

State of Alaska

- (B) assure that the home energy supplier will charge the eligible household, in the normal billing process, the difference between the actual cost of the home energy and the amount of the payment made by the State under this title;
 - (C) assure that the home energy supplier will provide assurances that any agreement entered into with a home energy supplier under this paragraph will contain provisions to assure that no household receiving assistance under this title will be treated adversely because of such assistance under applicable provisions of State law or public regulatory requirements; and
 - (D) ensure that the provision of vendored payments remains at the option of the State in consultation with local grantees and may be contingent on unregulated vendors taking appropriate measures to alleviate the energy burdens of eligible households, including providing for agreements between suppliers and individuals eligible for benefits under this Act that seek to reduce home energy costs, minimize the risks of home energy crisis, and encourage regular payments by individuals receiving financial assistance for home energy costs;
- (8) provide assurances that,
- (A) the State will not exclude households described in clause (2)(B) of this subsection from receiving home energy assistance benefits under clause (2), and
 - (B) the State will treat owners and renters equitably under the program assisted under this title;
- (9) provide that--
- (A) the State may use for planning and administering the use of funds under this title an amount not to exceed 10 percent of the funds payable to such State under this title for a fiscal year and not transferred pursuant to section 2604(f) for use under another block grant; and
 - (B) the State will pay from non-Federal sources the remaining costs of planning and administering the program assisted under this title and will not use Federal funds for such remaining cost (except for the costs of the activities described in paragraph (16));
- (10) provide that such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures will be established as may be necessary to assure the proper disbursement of and accounting for Federal funds paid to the State under this title, including procedures for monitoring the assistance provided under this title, and provide that the State will comply with the provisions of chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as the "Single Audit Act");
- (11) permit and cooperate with Federal investigations undertaken in accordance with section 2608;

State of Alaska

- (12) provide for timely and meaningful public participation in the development of the plan described in subsection (c);
- (13) provide an opportunity for a fair administrative hearing to individuals whose claims for assistance under the plan described in subsection (c) are denied or are not acted upon with reasonable promptness; and
- (14) cooperate with the Secretary with respect to data collecting and reporting under section 2610.
- (15) beginning in fiscal year 1992, provide, in addition to such services as may be offered by State Departments of Public Welfare at the local level, outreach and intake functions for crisis situations and heating and cooling assistance that is administered by additional State and local governmental entities or community-based organizations (such as community action agencies, area agencies on aging and not-for-profit neighborhood-based organizations), and in States where such organizations do not administer functions as of September 30, 1991, preference in awarding grants or contracts for intake services shall be provided to those agencies that administer the low-income weatherization or energy crisis intervention programs.
- (16) use up to 5 percent of such funds, at its option, to provide services that encourage and enable households to reduce their home energy needs and thereby the need for energy assistance, including needs assessments, counseling, and assistance with energy vendors, and report to the Secretary concerning the impact of such activities on the number of households served, the level of direct benefits provided to those households, and the number of households that remain unserved.

State of Alaska

Certification to the Assurances: As Chief Executive Officer, I agree to comply with the sixteen assurances contained in Title XXVI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, as amended. By signing these assurances, I also agree to abide by the standard assurances on lobbying, debarment and suspension, and a drug-free workplace.

Signature of the Tribal or Board Chairperson or Chief Executive Officer of the State or Territory.**

Signature: _____

Title: Karleen Jackson, Ph.D., Commissioner, Department of Health & Social Services

Date: _____

EIN: 926001185

** If a person other than the Chief Executive Officer of the State or territory, or Tribal Chairperson or Board Chairperson of a tribal organization, is signing the certification to the assurances, a letter must be submitted delegating such authority. (PLEASE ATTACH DELEGATION AUTHORITY.) The delegation must include authority to sign the assurances, not just to administer the program.

In the above assurances which are quoted from the law, "State" means the 50 States, the District of Columbia, an Indian Tribe or Tribal Organization, or a Territory; "title" of the Act refers to Title XXVI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (OBRA), as amended, the "Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act"; "section" means Section 2605 of OBRA; and, "subsection" refers to Section 2605(b) of OBRA.

State of Alaska



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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

May 31, 2007

Mr. Nick St. Angelo, Director
Division of Energy Assistance
Department of Health and Social Services
400 Willoughby Suite 301
Juneau, AK 99801-1731

Dear Mr. St. Angelo:

I, Sarah Palin, Governor of the State of Alaska, authorize the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services to make the certifications required by the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Block Grant under Title XXVI of Public Law 97-35, as amended.

The Department of Health and Social Service is the single state agency responsible for administering the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Plan. The legal authority under which the agency administers the plan on a statewide basis is AS 47.05.010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Palin".

Sarah Palin
Governor

State of Alaska

2605(a) Please check which components you will operate under the LIHEAP
2605(b)(1) program:

- (use of
funds)
- heating assistance
- cooling assistance
- crisis assistance
- weatherization assistance

2605(c)(1)(C) Please estimate what amount of available LIHEAP funds will be used
for each component that you will operate: The total of all percentages
must add up to 100%.

- 2605(c)(1)(C) 72 % heating assistance
- % cooling assistance
- 3 % crisis assistance
- 10 % weatherization assistance
- 5 % carryover to the following fiscal year
- 10 % administrative and planning costs
- % services to reduce home energy needs including needs
assessment (assurance 16)
- % used to develop and implement leveraging activities (limited to
- 100 **TOTAL**

2605(c)(1)(C) The funds reserved for winter crisis assistance which have not been
expended by March 15 will be reprogrammed to:

- (alternate use
of crisis
assistance
funds)
- heating assistance
- weatherization assistance
- Other(specify): carryover to the following fiscal year

Do you accept applications for energy crisis assistance at sites that are
geographically accessible to all households in the area to be served? (This
is required by the statute.) Yes No

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2605(b)(2)
2605(c)(1)(A)

What are your maximum eligibility limits?
(Please check the components to which they apply)

(eligibility)

Current year guidelines must be used.

150% of the FY __ poverty guidelines:
heating __ cooling __ crisis __ wx __

150% of the FY 2007 poverty guidelines:
heating cooling __ crisis wx __

110% of the FY __ poverty guidelines:
heating __ cooling __ crisis __ wx

60% of the State's FY 2008 median income:
heating __ cooling __ crisis __ wx

Other (specify for each component and include any categorically eligible households)

2605(c)(1)(A)
2605(b)(2)
(eligibility)

Do you have additional eligibility requirements for HEATING ASSISTANCE?

Do you use: Yes No

Assets test?

Do you give priority in eligibility to:

Elderly?

Disabled?

Young children?

Other: (If yes, please describe)?

The household must submit a completed application which is postmarked or received by the Division of Public Assistance before May 1 or on or after September 1 of each year.

The dwelling for which heating assistance is requested is located in the state, and at least one member of the household is physically present in the state at the time of application for, and receipt of, heating assistance; and the household

(1) physically resides in the dwelling for which heating assistance is requested; or

State of Alaska

(2) is seeking heating assistance to help with the natural gas or electric utility deposit necessary to move into rental housing in the state;

At least one member of the household must be a United States citizen or a qualified alien.

The household's annual unsubsidized home heating costs must exceed \$200.

A household is NOT ELIGIBLE to participate in the heating assistance program if, at the time of eligibility determination, the household:

- (1) is eligible for or has received LIHEAP benefits from an Indian tribal organization;
- (2) resides in a crisis center, hotel, motel, tent, or other shelter normally intended for temporary occupancy, and has resided there for less than 60 consecutive days before the date of signature on the completed application;
- (3) resides in a hospital, nursing home, state pioneer home, or other public or private institution to receive treatment for a mental or physical illness, student dormitory, correctional facility, or on a military base; or
- (4) resides in subsidized rental housing and has no direct home heating costs.

2604(c)
2605(c)(1)(A)

Do you have additional eligibility requirements for CRISIS ASSISTANCE?

Do you use: Yes No

(eligibility)

Assets test? ___ X

Must the household have received a shut-off notice or have an empty tank? X ___

Must the household have exhausted regular benefit? ___ X

Must the household have received a rent eviction notice? X ___

Must heating/cooling be medically necessary? ___ X

Other (Please explain): X ___

A household may receive benefits under either regular heating or crisis expedited assistance, but not both.

State of Alaska

What constitutes a crisis (please describe)?

A household may receive expedited crisis assistance if:

- (1) the applicant has requested expedited service;
- (2) the household's gross monthly income is less than the household's shelter costs;
- (3) the applicant has suffered, or will suffer within 48 hours, termination of fuel or home heating-related utility services; and
- (4) the division has verified the application.

A household may fax or mail an application to the Heating Assistance Program directly or through a third party (such as a fee agent, senior center, vendor, etc.) to request expedited assistance. The caseworker telephones the vendor to determine the amount needed to resolve the crisis. If the crisis grant amount will cover the amount the caseworker immediately authorizes the amount needed to resolve the situation. If the amount will not cover the bill, the caseworker negotiates with the vendor on behalf of the applicant, or counsels the applicant, to help them find a way to cover the remaining balance.

2605(c)(1)(A) Do you have additional eligibility requirements for WEATHERIZATION?

(eligibility) Do you use: Yes No

Assets test? ___ X

Priority groups? (Please list) X ___

Elderly (age 60+)

Disabled (Person with a physical or mental impairment, which limits one or more major life activity, as determined by eligibility for: Social Security disability insurance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), State of Alaska Interim Assistance and/or Veterans disability benefits.)

Children under age 6

Are you using Department of Energy (DOE) Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program (LIWA) rules to establish priority eligibility for households with

State of Alaska

certain characteristics? X —

If yes, are there exceptions? X —
 Please list below.

The Alaska Weatherization Assistance Program (AKWAP) is divided into two parts. For road connected areas of the state, the federal weatherization guidelines are followed, with the exception of not having a per unit limit on non-federal funds. The average cost per dwelling is about \$5,100.

For non-road connected areas of Alaska, the logistics and freight costs of getting materials and labor to a remote village make using some of the federal guidelines impractical. The Residential Energy Rehabilitation Program uses the same eligibility criteria as the AKWAP, and many of the same types of measures, but offers more extensive energy rehabilitation to each dwelling. The average cost per unit is \$15,000. All eligible units in that village are served, and the village will not be served again in the foreseeable future.

2605(b)(3)
 2604(c)(3)(A)
 (outreach)

Please check the outreach activities that you conduct that are designed to assure that eligible households are made aware of all LIHEAP assistance available:

- X provide intake service through home visits or by telephone for the physically infirm (i.e. elderly or disabled).
- X place posters/flyers in local and county social service offices, offices of aging, Social Security offices, VA, etc.
- X publish articles in local newspapers or broadcast media announcements.
- X include inserts in energy vendor billings to inform individuals of the availability of all types of LIHEAP assistance.
- X make mass mailing to past recipients of LIHEAP.
- X inform low income applicants of the availability of all types of LIHEAP assistance at application intake for other low-income programs.
- X utilize early application period at the beginning of the program for the elderly or disabled.
- execute interagency agreements with other low-income program

State of Alaska

offices to perform outreach to target groups.

X other (Please specify):

The Division of Public Assistance has four regional offices and seventeen district offices. All of these offices are supplied with Heating Assistance applications and other information relative to the program.

Fee agents, located in most villages, conduct outreach activities, assist individuals in completing applications, verify information, obtain necessary documentation, and send applications to the Juneau HAP office.

A toll-free number to the HAP central office has been made available to fee agents and vendors so that they may assist clients with questions.

Some Tribal organizations, that do not operate a LIHEAP program in their area, use their social services offices to assist HAP applicants (particularly non-English-speaking persons).

Home energy suppliers are furnished with applications and posters, and actively refer clients.

The state coordinates outreach and eligibility determinations between the heating, crisis and weatherization components to target households with members who are elderly, disabled or under 6 years of age.

2605(b)(4)

Please describe how you will assure that LIHEAP is coordinated with similar and related programs. The description provided applies to all components unless specifically noted.

(coordination)

The State provides Heating Assistance Program posters and application forms to Women, Infant and Children (WIC) nutrition clinics and Head Start Programs to facilitate application by households with young children.

Outreach materials are cooperatively distributed by the Alaska Commission on Aging grantees, senior citizen housing complexes, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Alliances for the Mentally Ill and other related agencies serving people who are elderly or disabled.

Employment offices, food banks, women's shelters and other agencies serving low-income people are furnished with and distribute heating assistance application forms.

State of Alaska

Subgrantees of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC), which administers the low income weatherization program, are supplied with HAP outreach materials to promote heating assistance to weatherization clients.

The HAP includes information on the availability of weatherization services in its mass mailing of heating assistance applications.

The HAP and the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Bulk Fuel Loan Program coordinate their efforts to assist small villages with economic difficulties in purchasing home heating fuel. The DCED assists the village in acquiring a bulk fuel loan which allows lower local heating fuel prices, while the HAP expedites heating assistance applications from village households.

Electric utilities eligible for the power cost equalization subsidy are required to cooperate with AHFC to implement cost-effective energy conservation measures such as weatherization and other insulating methods.

The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) provides data to the Heating Assistance Program to identify participants in publicly subsidized rental housing. The data indicates if the participant has direct heating costs, and if so, the amount of the heating allowance.

2605(b)(5)
2605(b)(2)
2605(b)(8A)

(benefit
levels)

The statute requires that there be no difference in the treatment of households eligible because of their income and those eligible because they receive benefits under TANF, Food Stamps, SSI, or certain means-tested veterans programs ("categorically eligible"). How do you ensure there is no difference when determining eligibility and benefit amounts? This applies to all components unless specifically noted below.

The Heating Assistance Program does not use categorical eligibility. All households must complete an application, meet the income guidelines and demonstrate that they have home heating expenses.

Income from public assistance, Social Security and Veteran's benefits are considered countable income and are included in the calculation of benefit amounts.

Weatherization benefits are based on the dwelling energy assessment. This assessment does not differentiate between categorical and non-categorical households.

State of Alaska

2605(b)(5) Heating Component

(determination of benefits) Please check the variables you use to determine your benefit levels:

- income
- family (household) size
- home energy cost
 - fuel type
 - climate/region
 - individual bill (if residing in subsidized rental housing)
 - dwelling type
 - energy burden (estimated % of income spent on home energy)
 - energy need
 - other (describe)

**Modeled space home heating cost.
Proportionate share of home heating expenses for multiple households living in a single residence.**

2605(b)(5)
2605(c)(1)(B)

(benefit levels)

Describe how you will assure that the highest benefits go to households with the lowest incomes and the highest energy costs or needs in relation to income, taking into account family size. Please describe benefit levels or attach a copy of your payment matrix.

Benefit amounts are based upon community specific heating cost points for a "typical" home. The points were determined using the AHFC's "AKWarm" energy modeling software, which incorporates Alaska specific data for weather, fuel and utility costs. The modeled community heating cost points are adjusted for dwelling type, and then adjusted for income, expressed as a percentage of the Alaska poverty level. An additional point is added if the household includes a priority group member. The final point total is multiplied by \$85. A complete description of Alaska's benefit calculation begins on the following page.

The amount of a subsidized rental housing utility deposit is the minimum amount required to establish natural gas and/or electric service, up to a maximum of \$500.

Do you provide in-kind (e.g., blankets, space heaters) and/or other forms of benefits?

Yes No If yes, please describe.

Heating Assistance Benefit Computation

Step 1 – Community fuel points

The division has assigned heating cost points to each community in the state, based upon the community's annual fuel cost and climatic conditions. These points are listed in Appendix A.

- If the household uses natural gas and another fuel type for heat, the division will use the community heating cost points for natural gas.
- If the household uses self-harvested wood or coal for heat, the division will use the community heating cost points for oil multiplied by 0.5.
- If the household uses purchased wood or coal for heat, the division will use the community heating cost points for oil multiplied by 0.8.

Step 2 – Dwelling type

The division will multiply the community heating cost points by the first one of the following factors that describes the household's dwelling. If more than one factor applies, the division will use the factor listed first:

- (1) the factor of 1.4 if the household resides in a mobile home with heated living space of 980 square feet or more;
- (2) the factor of 0.4 if the household resides in a travel trailer or mobile home less than 35 feet in length, or in an RV, tent or pickup camper;
- (3) the factor of 0.15 if the household resides in a one-room dwelling such as a studio apartment, hotel or boarding home;
- (4) the factor of 0.35 if the household resides on a boat;
- (5) the factor of 0.55 if the household resides in a one-bedroom dwelling, or a one-room house or cabin without bedrooms;
- (6) the factor of 1.3 if the household resides in a three-or-more-bedroom single family, duplex or triplex home;
- (7) the factor of 0.7 if the household resides in a two-bedroom unit in an apartment building of four or more attached units.

If the household resides in a single residence with one or more other households, the heating cost points are reduced to the household's proportionate share of the home heating expenses.

Step 3 – Household size and income

The division reviews and verifies each household's gross income for the month prior to application. Verification may be provided through: documentary evidence (wage stub, award letter, etc.); Division of Public Assistance and Department of Labor records; or impartial third parties such as fee agents, village council representatives, or social service agencies.

The division will assign each household the following percentage of heating cost points based upon the household's gross monthly income and family size, expressed as a percentage of the Alaska poverty level. The Alaska poverty level figures are included in Appendix B.

- 100 percent of points if the household's gross monthly income is no more than 25 percent of the Alaska poverty level;

- 90 percent of points if the household's gross monthly income is more than 25 percent but no more than 50 percent of the Alaska poverty level;
- 80 percent of points if the household's gross monthly income is more than 50 percent but no more than 75 percent of the Alaska poverty level;
- 70 percent of points if the household's gross monthly income is more than 75 percent but no more than 100 percent of the Alaska poverty level;
- 60 percent of points if the household's gross monthly income is more than 100 percent but no more than 125 percent of the Alaska poverty level;
- 50 percent of points if the household's gross monthly income is more than 125 percent of the Alaska poverty level but no more than the maximum allowable.

If the household's gross monthly income exceeds the maximum allowable poverty level the household is not eligible.

Step 4 – Priority groups

The division will add one point to the income adjusted heating cost points if the household includes one or more members 60 years of age or older, legally disabled, or under six years of age.

Step 5 – Heating points of 2.0 or more

Households must have heating cost points of 2.0 or more to be eligible for heating assistance.

Step 6 – Round points

The division will round the final total heating cost points to the nearest whole number. The total heating cost points may not exceed 35 points.

Step 7 – Multiply by the benefit rate to determine household benefit

The division will multiply by the FY 2007 benefit rate of \$85 to determine the amount of the household's heating assistance.

The amount of heating assistance may be reduced by the amount of the unpaid balance that the household owes the division for previously awarded heating assistance to which the household was not entitled. The division will use this method of recoupment of overpayments only if the household has not responded to the division's request for repayment or the household defaults on its repayment agreement.

The following examples illustrate how a household's heating assistance benefit is determined.

	Example 1		Benefit calculation:
Step 1.	Community, Fuel	Anchorage, N Gas	5 points
Step 2.	Dwelling	3 bedroom house	5 points x 1.3 = 6.5 points
Step 3.	Household Size, Income	4, \$2,150	101-125% of poverty = 60%
			6.5 points x 0.6 = 3.9 points

Step 4.	Household includes elderly, disabled or child under age 6	No	N/A
Step 5.	Heating points of 2.0 or more	Yes	3.9 points
Step 6.	Round points		Rounded = 4 points
Step 7.	Multiply by benefit rate		4 points x \$85 = \$340
	Example 2		Benefit calculation:
Step 1.	Community, Fuel	Fairbanks, Oil	10 points
Step 2.	Dwelling	2 bedrm, 4+unit bldg	10 points x 0.7 = 7 points
Step 3.	Household Size, Income	2, \$1,685	126-150% of poverty = 50%
			7 points x 0.5 = 3.5 points
Step 4.	Household includes elderly, disabled or child under age 6	Yes	3.5 points + 1 = 4.5 points
Step 5.	Heating points of 2.0 or more	Yes	4.5 points
Step 6.	Round points		Rounded = 5 points
Step 7.	Multiply by benefit rate		5 points x \$85 = \$425
	Example 3		Benefit calculation:
Step 1.	Community, Fuel	Savoonga, Oil	27 points
Step 2.	Dwelling	2 bedroom house	No adjustment
Step 3.	Household Size, Income	5, \$2,300	76-100% of poverty = 70%
			27 points x 0.7 = 18.9 points
Step 4.	Household includes elderly, disabled or child under age 6	Yes	18.9 points + 1 = 19.9 points
Step 5.	Heating points of 2.0 or more	Yes	19.9 points
Step 6.	Round points		Rounded = 20 points
Step 7.	Multiply by benefit rate		20 points x \$85 = \$1,700
	Example 4		Benefit calculation:
Step 1.	Community, Fuel	Anchorage, N Gas	5 points
Step 2.	Dwelling	Studio apartment	5 points x 0.15 = 0.75 points
Step 3.	Household Size, Income	1, \$1,250	126-150% of poverty = 50%
			.75 points x 0.5 = 0.375 points
Step 4.	Household includes elderly, disabled or child under age 6	No	N/A
Step 5.	Heating points of 2.0 or more	No	0.375 points
Step 6.	Round points		N/A
Step 7.	Multiply by benefit rate		Ineligible

2605(b)(5)
2605(c)(1)(B)

CRISIS COMPONENT

How do you handle crisis situations?

(benefit
determination)

separate component other (please explain)

If you have a separate component, how do you determine crisis assistance benefits?

Amount to resolve crisis, up to maximum

other (please describe)

Crisis assistance benefits are expedited heating benefits. The benefit amounts are computed in the same manner as heating benefits.

(benefit
levels)

Please indicate maximum benefit for each type of crisis assistance offered.

heating \$2,975 maximum benefit

cooling _____ maximum benefit

year-round _____ maximum benefit

Do you provide in-kind (e.g. blankets, space heaters, fans) and/or other forms of benefits?

Yes No If yes, please describe.

2605(b)(5)
2605(c)(1)
(B) & (D)

WEATHERIZATION & OTHER ENERGY RELATED HOME REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENTS

What LIHEAP weatherization services/materials do you provide? (Check all categories that apply.)

Weatherization needs assessments/audits

Caulking, insulation, storm windows, etc.

Furnace/heating system modifications/repairs

Furnace replacement

Cooling efficiency mods/repairs/replacement

Other (Please describe)

installation, replacement, and repair of windows, exterior doors, roofs, exterior walls and floors; installation, replacement, or repair of smoke/fire alarms; and post weatherization audits of homes that were weatherized.

Do you have a maximum LIHEAP weatherization benefit/expenditure per household? no

If yes, what is the maximum amount? \$ _____

Under what rules do you administer LIHEAP weatherization? (Check only one.)

Entirely under LIHEAP (not DOE) rules

Entirely under DOE LIWAP rules

Mostly under LIHEAP rules with the following DOE LIWAP rule(s) where LIHEAP and LIWAP Rul. , differ (Check all that apply):

Weatherize buildings if at least 66% of units (50% in 2- & 4-unit buildings) are eligible units or will become eligible within 180 days

Weatherize shelters temporarily housing primarily low income persons (excluding nursing homes, prisons, and similar institutional care facilities).

Other (Please describe)

Mostly under DOE LIWAP rules, with the following LIHEAP rule(s) where LIHEAP and LIWAP rules differ (Check all that apply.)

Weatherization not subject to DOE LIWAP maximum statewide average cost per dwelling unit.

Other (Please describe.)

2605(b)(6) Have you changed local administering agencies from last year?
 Yes No

If yes, please describe how you selected them. What components are affected by the change?

(agency designation)

2605(c)(1)(E)

Please describe any additional steps (other than those described elsewhere in this plan) that will be taken to target assistance to households with high home energy burdens. (This applies to all components. If all steps to target households with high home energy burdens are described elsewhere in the plan, no further information is required here.)

2605(b)(7) Do you make payments directly to home energy suppliers?

(energy suppliers) Heating yes No

Crisis yes No

If yes, are there exceptions? Yes No If yes, please describe.

Applicants are paid directly if:

(1) the household pays rent and pays home heating and

electricity costs indirectly through rental payments, or

- (2) the vendor has not executed a Heating Assistance Program agreement.

A portion of the grant may be paid to the home energy supplier and the remainder to the applicant if the household pays home heating costs indirectly through rental payments but pays directly for home electricity.

2605(b)(7)(A)

If you make payments directly to home energy suppliers, how do you notify the client of the amount of assistance paid? (please describe)

At eligibility determination, the heating assistance computer system (HAS) generates two Notices of Action: one goes to the household explaining the amount of heating assistance and the distribution of benefits amongst their vendors; the other goes to the vendor listing the client's name, address, account number and grant amount.

2605(b)(7)
(B) - (D)

New vendors, or vendors with past performance problems, are paid only upon submission of delivery invoices (line-of-credit vendors). Notice of Actions for clients using line-of-credit vendors are generated both at the time of eligibility determination, and when the entire grant has been exhausted.

How do you make sure the home energy supplier performs what is required in this assurance? If vendor agreements are used, they may be attached. Indicate each component for which this description applies.

All vendors wishing to receive heating or crisis assistance payments on behalf of their eligible customers are required to sign a Vendor Heating Assistance Agreement with the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services (see Appendix D). This agreement prohibits discrimination against HAP clients.

Vendors paid in advance must confirm that the payment was received and credited to the eligible household's account.

Line of credit vendors must supply the fuel by June 30. To receive payment they must submit the invoices by July 15. The HAP issues a state warrant to the household for the balance of any HAP credit remaining after the July 15 deadline.

Each program year the HAP surveys 400 randomly selected households. The survey seeks input on proper HAP credit by vendors and any difficulties in the use of HAP credit.

Is there any difference in the way owners and renters are treated?
If yes, please describe.

2605(b)(8)(B) HEATING ASSISTANCE:

(owners
and
renters) yes no

All households must show that they pay for home heating needs either directly, or indirectly through rent. Renters that have no direct home heating costs must provide a copy of a rent receipt or rental agreement to show that they pay rent. Households that reside in subsidized rental housing and have no direct home heating costs are not eligible.

CRISIS ASSISTANCE:

yes no

Renters with no direct heating expenses must provide a copy of their eviction notice to be considered for expedited assistance.

WEATHERIZATION:

yes no

All renters must have written permission of the landlord to perform weatherization work on the premises. A landlord-tenant agreement provides for rent stabilization and other tenant protections for at least 18 months after initial application. Landlords contribute 50 percent of the cost of labor and materials when the cost exceeds \$1,200 per unit for four plexes and under, \$750 per unit for five plexes and above.

2605(b)(10) How do you ensure good fiscal accounting and tracking of LIHEAP funds? (Please describe. Include a description of how you monitor fiscal activities.)

(program,
fiscal
monitoring,
and audit)

Fiscal control and fund accounting procedures are provided by the State to assure proper disbursement of and accounting for federal funds. All expenditures are coded and tracked through the Alaska State Accounting System (AKSAS).

Case specific heating and crisis expenditures are tracked and reported by the HAS software. HAP staff compare this expenditure data with AKSAS on a monthly basis to ensure that the systems are consistent. Total expenditures by LIHEAP components and fiscal years are also summarized and tracked on spreadsheets by the

Division of Administrative Services and by HAP staff.

The required annual financial and compliance audit of all LIHEAP funds is conducted by the Legislative Affairs Agency - Audit Division, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and requirements of the "Single Audit Act of 1984" (P.L. 98-502).

WEATHERIZATION

The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) observes all established State accounting procedures, and is subject to the financial and compliance audits conducted by the Legislative Affairs Agency. AHFC requires each subgrantee to have an annual audit which is submitted to AHFC.

How do you monitor program activities? (Please be sure to include a description of how you monitor eligibility and benefit determination.)

Ongoing review of at least 5% of heating assistance cases by the HAP caseworker supervisor ensures quality control in the eligibility and benefit determination process.

Maintenance of program records, case files, and financial transaction documentation by the State provides a clear monitoring and audit trail.

The AHFC oversight of weatherization expenditures by its subgrantees includes:

Annual monitoring of each subgrantee's procedures;

On-site monitoring of at least 10% of completed dwelling units;

Monitoring of at least 15% of subgrantee client files for accuracy, completeness and required forms;

2605(b)(12)

**How is your LIHEAP program audited?
Under the Single Audit Act? Yes If not, please describe:**

For States and Territories:

Is there an annual audit of local administering agencies? X Yes ___ No

The weatherization subgrantees are audited annually. The state does not use local administering agencies for heating and crisis assistance.

How did you get timely and meaningful public participation in the

(timely and meaningful public participation)

Development of the plan (please describe)?

The public is provided opportunity for participation in the development of the plan through public hearing. The State publishes notices in major newspapers to solicit comments from the public and concerned agencies. Free copies of the draft plan are made available upon request. At least thirty days is provided for comment prior to any action regarding the plan.

At the close of the comment period the LIHEAP Policy Advisory Committee meets to review the input resulting from the public hearing. The Committee represents low income citizens, home energy suppliers, the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, and concerned agencies. Due consideration is given to public comment.

2605(a)(2)

Did you conduct public hearings on the proposed use and distribution of your LIHEAP funds? X yes ___ no When and where?

(public hearings)

The Department of Health and Social Services held a statewide public hearing to solicit comment on the proposed use and distribution of FY 2008 LIHEAP block grant funds from June 1, 2007, through July 5, 2007.

2605(b)(13)

Describe your fair hearing procedures for households whose applications are denied or not acted on in a timely manner. When are applicants informed of these rights?

(fair hearings)

Fair Hearings are described in Appendix C.

2605(b)(15)

Does the State agency that administers the following LIHEAP component also administer the State's welfare program?

HEATING ASSISTANCE

X Yes ___ No

If yes, describe alternate process for outreach and intake:

An applicant need not visit a welfare office to obtain benefits. The vast majority of LIHEAP clients mail their applications to the state office without ever visiting a public assistance office.

At the beginning of each program year a mass mailing is made to all the prior year recipients.

Applications are mailed to all of the senior centers in the state where they are made available to all who are interested. In addition, applications are delivered to home bound elderly, and assistance is provided to those needing help in completing the application form.

(alternate outreach and intake)

Heating Assistance Program brochures are mailed to recipients of the Food Stamp Program, Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP) and the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Adult Public Assistance (APA) Programs.

A display advertisement is published in the Senior Voice newspaper during the months of October, November and December. This is a statewide newspaper which specifically targets the elderly. The advertisement includes information about obtaining an application form.

Interested applicants may call their local Public Assistance office to request that an Heating Assistance Program application be mailed to them. Once the application is completed it can be mailed directly to the state office in Juneau.

The State contracts with fee agents in 250 villages in Alaska, with populations ranging from 60 to 500 people, to provide applications and assist clients in completing them. Fee agents are commissioned agents of the State and are paid based on the number of client applications completed. They provide personalized service to all interested applicants in their village(s).

A statewide toll-free 24-hour telephone hotline provides information on all Division of Public Assistance programs, including heating assistance. This interactive voice response system provides general program information, information on expedited crisis assistance, and the current status of a household's application and grant payment(s).

The Heating Assistance Program office can be reached toll-free within Alaska by calling 1-800-470-3058.

Heating Assistance Program information and application forms are available under Energy Services on the State of Alaska web page at: <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/heat>

CRISIS ASSISTANCE

Yes No

If yes, describe alternate process for outreach and intake:

Households seeking expedited assistance in crisis situations fax or mail their completed application to the Heating Assistance Program in Juneau. Expedite caseworkers review and take action to resolve the energy crisis within 48 hours if the household is eligible for assistance, or within 18 hours if the household is in a life

threatening situation.

An elderly or disabled applicant who is unable to leave their residence to submit an application for crisis benefits may:

- (1) have their application form picked up and faxed for them by a friend, relative, senior center representative, fee agent, charitable organization, etc., or
- (2) relay the application information to HAP staff by telephone. Expedite caseworkers will proceed with action to resolve the heating emergency for eligible applicants and will mail the application form to the applicant for signature.

Alternate processes listed for heating benefits are also applicable for crisis benefits.

2605(b)(16)

Do you use LIHEAP funds to provide services that encourage and enable households to reduce their home energy needs and thereby the need for energy assistance? (This assurance refers to activities such as needs assessments, counseling, and assistance with energy vendors.)

yes no

If yes, how do you ensure that you don't use more than 5% of your LIHEAP funds - statutory ceiling - for these activities?

The Heating Assistance Program uses financial coding to track LIHEAP funds used to encourage and enable households to reduce their home energy needs. Expenses charged to this code are monitored by the program coordinator to ensure that the state does not use more than 5 percent.

2607A

Please describe leveraging activities planned for the fiscal year. Complete this entry if you plan to apply for LIHEAP leveraging incentive funds and to include in your leveraging report resources/benefits provided to low income households this fiscal year under criterion (iii) in 45 CFR 96.87(d)(2). Provide the following information for each:

1. Identify and describe each resource/benefit;
2. Identify the source(s) of each resource; and
3. Describe the integration/coordination of each resource/benefit with the LIHEAP program, consistent with one or more of conditions A-H in 45 CFR 96.87(d)(2)(iii)

Power Cost Equalization (PCE) Program

Description of resource/benefit

The goal of the PCE program is to reduce the cost of power to customers in rural parts of Alaska that rely on high cost diesel fuel for most of their electric power generation. To receive a power cost equalization payment, a customer of an eligible electric utility:

- (1) must be billed by the utility in accordance with the relevant tariff, rate structure, separate demand charge, or minimum charge;
- (2) must make timely payments to the utility, for the electric power purchased, at least annually or on an appropriate schedule throughout the year; and
- (3) must pay the base amount, plus the difference between the utility rate and the amount of the power cost equalization, for each kilowatt-hour consumed.

The PCE rate is determined by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. Utilities then submit monthly reports to the Division of Energy that documents eligible power sold. The Division of Energy calculates the amount of PCE on a monthly basis and issues payment to the utility that flows through to the customer in the form of a reduced monthly electric bill.

Through its subsidy of residential utility bills, the PCE program substantially increases the portion of heating assistance benefits available for the purchase of home heating fuel. Without PCE assistance, low income rural households would have insufficient financial resources to purchase heating fuel and maintain the electric service necessary to run their heating systems.

Source of resource

The State Legislature appropriates state funds for the PCE program each year.

Integration/coordination of the resource with the LIHEAP program

The PCE, Heating Assistance and Weatherization programs formally recognize their coordinated efforts in addressing the home energy needs of low income Alaskans through a written memorandum of agreement as described in the Leveraging Incentive Program condition F (45 CFR 96.87(d)(2)(iii)(F)).

The coordination responsibilities of the parties include:

Preparation of an annual low-income integrated service report which includes the number of households, by PCE participating community, receiving state or tribal LIHEAP heating or

weatherization assistance; the estimated percentage of PCE utility customers receiving heating or weatherization assistance; and the percentage of households ineligible for PCE due to bill non-payment.

Additional Heating Assistance Program outreach efforts to target households not eligible for PCE due to bill non-payment, including dissemination of such information to LIHEAP tribal providers.

Additional outreach efforts through the weatherization service providers to target households ineligible for PCE due to bill non-payment, in villages selected for weatherization work.

Consumer education through weatherization providers to households ineligible for PCE due to non-payment, when weatherization crews are working in the village where the non-payment occurred. If there is a high incidence of non-payment in the village, technical assistance will be offered to the utility to help determine the cause of the non-payment.

Work with utilities receiving PCE to enhance energy conservation in villages where weatherization work is performed.

Weatherization crews could install utility provided conservation materials, diagnose high bill complaints or other conservation measures to be negotiated.

An annual report by the PCE program of the communities and utilities participating in the program, the number of residential customers served, the average monthly eligible kilowatt-hour per customer for each utility, the PCE rate per utility, and the number of months the utility participated in the PCE program (if less than twelve).

An annual list of the number of eligible households by utility and community made non-eligible for PCE due to 12 months of non-payment.

* Leveraged resources/benefits that are counted under criterion (iii) in 45 CFR 96.87(d)(2) must be identified and described in the grantee's LIHEAP plan and distributed as indicated in the plan.

STATE LIHEAP CONTACT PERSON

Please send copies of all fiscal and program information to the Program Coordinator listed below:

Melinda Cavanaugh
State of Alaska
Department of Health & Social Services
Division of Public Assistance
Heating Assistance Program
400 Willoughby Ave., Suite 301
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1700
(907) 465-3099
FAX (907) 465-3319
Internet: melinda.cavanaugh@alaska.gov

State of Alaska

APPENDIX A

Community	Oil/	Natural
	Electricity/ Propane	Gas
Adak	6	N/A
Akhiok	8	N/A
Akiachak	21	N/A
Akiak	21	N/A
Akutan	11	N/A
Alakanuk	21	N/A
Alatna	27	N/A
Aleknagik	13	N/A
Alexander Creek	7	N/A
Allakaket	27	N/A
Ambler	35	N/A
Anaktuvuk Pass	16	N/A
Anchor Point	6	N/A
Anchorage	8	5
Anderson	11	N/A
Angoon	8	N/A
Aniak	21	N/A
Annette	6	N/A
Anvik	19	N/A
Arctic Village	32	N/A
Atka	6	N/A
Atmautluak	19	N/A
Atkasuk	24	N/A
Barrow	21	6
Beaver	24	N/A
Beluga	7	N/A
Bethel	16	N/A
Bettles	29	N/A
Big Lake	7	5
Birch Creek	27	N/A
Brevig Mission	23	N/A
Buckland	33	N/A
Cantwell	11	N/A
Central	23	N/A
Chalkyitsik	28	N/A
Chase	8	N/A
Chefornak	20	N/A
Chena Hot Springs	11	N/A
Chenega	8	N/A
Chevak	25	N/A
Chickaloon	8	N/A
Chicken	19	N/A
Chignik	9	N/A
Chignik Lagoon	9	N/A
Chignik Lake	9	N/A

State of Alaska

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Community	Oil/ Electricity/ Propane	Natural Gas
Chiniak	6	N/A
Chistochina	12	N/A
Chitina	11	N/A
Chuathbaluk	21	N/A
Chugiak	7	5
Circle	23	N/A
Circle Hot Springs	23	N/A
Clam Gulch	7	N/A
Clarks Point	16	N/A
Clear	11	N/A
Coffman Cove	6	N/A
Cohoe	7	N/A
Cold Bay	11	N/A
Cold Foot	19	N/A
College	10	N/A
Cooper Landing	9	6
Copper Center	11	N/A
Cordova	7	N/A
Craig	5	N/A
Crooked Creek	26	N/A
Deering	31	N/A
Delta Junction	11	N/A
Denali Park	10	N/A
Dillingham	11	N/A
Diomedea	27	N/A
Dot Lake	12	N/A
Dutch Harbor	6	N/A
Eagle	19	N/A
Eagle River	8	5
Edna Bay	11	N/A
Eek	22	N/A
Egegik	15	N/A
Eilson AFB	11	N/A
Eklutna	8	5
Ekuk	16	N/A
Ekwok	14	N/A
Elfin Cove	6	N/A
Elim	26	N/A
Elmendorf AFB	8	5
Emmonak	24	N/A
Ester	11	N/A
Evansville	29	N/A
Excursion Inlet	7	N/A
Fairbanks	10	N/A
False Pass	11	N/A

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Community	Oil/	Natural
	Electricity/ Propane	Gas
Fort Greely	11	N/A
Fort Richardson	8	5
Fort Wainwright	10	N/A
Fort Yukon	23	N/A
Fox	11	N/A
Fritz Creek	7	N/A
Funter Bay	7	N/A
Gakona	11	N/A
Galena	20	N/A
Gambell	27	N/A
Georgetown	26	N/A
Girdwood	8	5
Glennallen	11	N/A
Golovin	26	N/A
Goodnews Bay	20	N/A
Grayling	22	N/A
Gulkana	11	N/A
Gustavus	6	N/A
Haines	6	N/A
Halibut Cove	7	N/A
Hamilton	24	N/A
Healy	10	N/A
Healy Lake	13	N/A
Hollis	5	N/A
Holy Cross	21	N/A
Homer	7	N/A
Hoonah	7	N/A
Hooper Bay	25	N/A
Hope	7	N/A
Houston	7	N/A
Hughes	33	N/A
Huslia	30	N/A
Hydaburg	5	N/A
Hyder	4	N/A
Igiugig	12	N/A
Iliamna	19	N/A
Indian	8	5
Ivanof Bay	12	N/A
Juneau	5	N/A
Kake	6	N/A
Kaktovik	24	N/A
Kalskag (Lower)	23	N/A
Kalskag (Upper)	23	N/A
Kaltag	22	N/A
Karluk	10	N/A

State of Alaska

APPENDIX A

Community	Oil/ Electricity/ Propane	Natural Gas
Kasaan	5	N/A
Kasigluk	19	N/A
Kasilof	7	N/A
Kenai	8	6
Kenny Lake (Tonsina)	11	N/A
Ketchikan	4	N/A
Kiana	26	N/A
King Cove	11	N/A
King Salmon	13	N/A
Kipnuk	20	N/A
Kivalina	28	N/A
Klawock	5	N/A
Klukwan	8	N/A
Knik	7	5
Kobuk	35	N/A
Kodiak	6	N/A
Kokhanok	19	N/A
Koliganek	16	N/A
Kongiganak	22	N/A
Kotlik	24	N/A
Kotzebue	21	N/A
Koyuk	25	N/A
Koyukuk	20	N/A
Kwethluk	20	N/A
Kwigillingok	22	N/A
Lake Minchumina	27	N/A
Larsen Bay	7	N/A
Levelock	12	N/A
Lime Village	26	N/A
Manley Hot Springs	13	N/A
Manokotak	16	N/A
Marshall	25	N/A
McCarthy	11	N/A
McGrath	22	N/A
McKinley Park	10	N/A
Mekoryuk	21	N/A
Mentasta Lake	12	N/A
Metlakatla	6	N/A
Minto	16	N/A
Moose Creek	11	N/A
Moose Pass	6	N/A
Mountain Village	25	N/A
Myers Chuck	5	N/A
Naknek	13	N/A
Nanwalek	8	N/A

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Community	Oil/	Natural
	Electricity/ Propane	Gas
Napakiak	11	N/A
Napaskiak	20	N/A
Nelson Lagoon	8	N/A
Nenana	11	N/A
New Stuyahok	16	N/A
Newhalen	19	N/A
Newtok	25	N/A
Nightmute	21	N/A
Nikiski	7	6
Nikolaevsk	6	N/A
Nikolai	27	N/A
Nikolski	6	N/A
Ninilchik	8	N/A
Noatak	32	N/A
Nome	17	N/A
Nondalton	19	N/A
Noorvik	26	N/A
North Pole	11	N/A
Northway	12	N/A
Nuiqsut	20	N/A
Nulato	24	N/A
Nunapitchuk	19	N/A
Ohogamiute	25	N/A
Old Harbor	7	N/A
Oscarville	20	N/A
Ouzinkie	6	N/A
Palmer	7	5
Paxson	12	N/A
Pedro Bay	19	N/A
Pelican	7	N/A
Perryville	9	N/A
Peters Creek	8	5
Petersburg	5	N/A
Pilot Point	12	N/A
Pilot Station	25	N/A
Pitka's Point	25	N/A
Platinum	20	N/A
Point Baker	11	N/A
Point Hope	23	N/A
Point Lay	18	N/A
Port Alexander	11	N/A
Port Alsworth	19	N/A
Port Graham	8	N/A
Port Heiden	12	N/A
Port Lions	8	N/A

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Community	Oil/ Electricity/ Propane	Natural Gas
Port Protection	11	N/A
Portage	8	5
Portage Creek	14	N/A
Quinhagak	20	N/A
Rampart	20	N/A
Red Devil	26	N/A
Ruby	19	N/A
Russian Mission	25	N/A
Saint George	11	N/A
Saint Marys	25	N/A
Saint Michael	23	N/A
Saint Paul	11	N/A
Saichu	11	N/A
Sand Point	8	N/A
Savoonga	27	N/A
Saxman	4	N/A
Scammon Bay	22	N/A
Selawik	29	N/A
Seldovia	9	N/A
Seward	6	N/A
Shageluk	24	N/A
Shaktoolik	21	N/A
Sheldon Point	24	N/A
Shishmaref	29	N/A
Shungnak	35	N/A
Sitka	6	N/A
Skagway	8	N/A
Skwentna	11	N/A
Slana	12	N/A
Sleetmute	26	N/A
Soldotna	9	6
Solomon	26	N/A
South Naknek	13	N/A
Stebbins	21	N/A
Stelling	9	6
Stevens Village	23	N/A
Stony River	26	N/A
Sutton	7	5
Takotna	20	N/A
Talkeetna	8	N/A
Tanacross	12	N/A
Tanana	20	N/A
Tatitlek	11	N/A
Telida	27	N/A
Teller	23	N/A

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Community	Oil/	Natural
	Electricity/ Propane	Gas
Tenakee	7	N/A
Tetlin	16	N/A
Thorne Bay	5	N/A
Togiak	17	N/A
Tok	12	N/A
Toksook Bay	21	N/A
Tonsina	11	N/A
Trapper Creek	8	N/A
Tuluksak	21	N/A
Tuntutuliak	20	N/A
Tununak	20	N/A
Twin Hills	17	N/A
Two Rivers	11	N/A
Tyonek	7	N/A
Ugashik	12	N/A
Unalakleet	21	N/A
Unalaska	6	N/A
Valdez	8	N/A
Venetie	23	N/A
Wainwright	21	N/A
Wales	27	N/A
Ward Cove	4	N/A
Wasilla	7	5
Whale Pass	6	N/A
White Mountain	26	N/A
Whittier	8	5
Willow	7	N/A
Wiseman	19	N/A
Wrangell	5	N/A
Yakutat	6	N/A

Note: If natural gas utility service becomes available in additional communities, the division will use the natural gas points from the geographically closest community with natural gas listed above.

Household Gross Monthly Income

Family Size	Percent of Alaska Poverty Level Using 2007 HHS Poverty Guidelines					
	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5
	0 - 25%	26 - 50%	51 - 75%	76 - 100%	101 - 125%	126 - 150%
1	0 - 266	267 - 532	533 - 798	799 - 1,064	1,065 - 1,330	1,331 - - 1,596
2	0 - 357	358 - 713	714 - 1,070	1,071 - 1,427	1,428 - 1,783	1,784 - - 2,140
3	0 - 447	448 - 895	896 - 1,342	1,343 - 1,789	1,790 - 2,236	2,237 - - 2,684
4	0 - 538	539 - 1,076	1,077 - 1,614	1,615 - 2,152	2,153 - 2,690	2,691 - - 3,228
5	0 - 629	630 - 1,257	1,258 - 1,886	1,887 - 2,514	2,515 - 3,143	3,144 - - 3,771
6	0 - 719	720 - 1,438	1,439 - 2,158	2,159 - 2,877	2,878 - 3,596	3,597 - - 4,315
7	0 - 810	811 - 1,620	1,621 - 2,429	2,430 - 3,239	3,240 - 4,049	4,050 - - 4,859
8	0 - 900	901 - 1,801	1,802 - 2,701	2,702 - 3,602	3,603 - 4,502	4,503 - - 5,403
9	0 - 973	974 - 1,946	1,947 - 2,919	2,920 - 3,892	3,893 - 4,865	4,866 - - 5,838
10	0 - 1,045	1,046 - 2,091	2,092 - 3,136	3,137 - 4,182	4,183 - 5,227	5,228 - - 6,273
11	0 - 1,118	1,119 - 2,236	2,237 - 3,354	3,355 - 4,472	4,473 - 5,590	5,591 - - 6,708
12	0 - 1,190	1,191 - 2,381	2,382 - 3,571	3,572 - 4,762	4,763 - 5,952	5,953 - - 7,143

APPENDIX C

FAIR HEARING PROCEDURES

To help inform applicants of their rights, the Heating Assistance Program (HAP) income guidelines, hearing procedures, and civil rights information is printed on each application. General eligibility criteria is printed on outreach materials.

The State will provide the opportunity for an administrative hearing to any household whose application is not acted upon within 45 days of receipt in the HAP central office.

Clients are informed of any action taken on their case by a Notice of Action. This notice includes an explanation of the right to a fair hearing.

An applicant who disagrees with any action which reduces, suspends, denies, or terminates benefits may request a fair hearing within 30 days of the date of the notice. However, year to year program changes affecting all applicants are not subject to these hearings.

A request for a fair hearing may be submitted in writing, by telephone, or in person by a member of the household or its representative to any office of the Division of Public Assistance. Upon receipt of the request the Division will conduct a review of the case. If an error occurred, the action is corrected and the household is notified in writing. If no error is apparent, the Division will send the household a letter explaining the information used to determine the household's eligibility and how the program rules were applied. The household is instructed to contact the Division to pursue a fair hearing request if they believe an error was made on their case. They are further advised that if they do not contact the Division, the Division will conclude that the fair hearing request has been withdrawn.

A household may wish to have a pre-hearing conference between a representative of the Division and the household and/or its representative. Misunderstandings about program rules and criteria may be resolved through discussion at the conference and may make the hearing unnecessary.

Pre-hearing conferences and fair hearings may be held by telephone. The household has the right to do all the following before and during the hearing:

- (1) Examine all documents and records that will be used at the hearing including the manuals or manual sections relied on by the Division in taking the contested action.
- (2) Present the case personally or be represented by an attorney, paralegal, friend, or any person who may be helpful in the presentation of the case.
- (3) Bring witnesses.
- (4) Advance arguments without undue interference.
- (5) Question or refute any testimony or evidence, including an opportunity to confront and cross examine adverse witnesses.
- (6) Submit evidence to establish all pertinent facts and circumstances in the case.

The Division will hold the hearing, make a decision, notify the household, and implement the decision within 90 days of the request for the hearing.

WEATHERIZATION FAIR HEARING PROCESS

Appeal of Ineligibility

1. A Subgrantee shall identify in a determination letter to an ineligible client the reason(s) for ineligibility. If a reason is for lack of sufficient information or documentation, the Subgrantee shall identify what is required for reconsideration.
2. The letter shall identify that an appeal of the decision can be made and must go first to the head of the Subgrantee's weatherization program.
3. The appeal process for ineligibility is as follows:

Level 1

- a. The applicant must notify the Subgrantee that an appeal is made and supply any information noted in the ineligibility letter;
- b. The Subgrantee weatherization head reviews the appeal;
- c. The Subgrantee weatherization head will make a decision on the appeal and notify the client. If the decision is that the client is still ineligible, the Subgrantee shall inform the client that the client can request the Subgrantee submit a further appeal to the State.

Level 2

- d. If the client has requested the Subgrantee appeal to the State, the Subgrantee shall submit the client file to the State weatherization program manager;
- e. The State weatherization program manager will review the file and give a copy of the file to the State project director, along with a recommendation;
- f. The State project director will make a final decision on the eligibility status and notify the client and the Subgrantee.

APPENDIX D

**State of Alaska
Department of Health and Social Services
Heating Assistance Program
Vendor Agreement**

PARTIES

- a. State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Assistance, hereinafter called DPA, and
- b. _____ hereinafter called the Vendor.
(Name of Home Heating Supplier)

PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT

The purpose of this agreement is to provide for the payment of home heating costs on behalf of low-income households eligible for the Heating Assistance Program (HAP). To accomplish this the parties agree to the following terms and conditions.

DPA CONDITIONS

1. Upon certification of an eligible household, DPA shall send a written Notice of Action to the Vendor and the household. The notice will state the amount of heating assistance available to the household, and how the assistance is to be distributed among its vendors.
2. DPA shall then make a cash advance payment equal to the amount of heating assistance assigned to the Vendor on the household's behalf.
3. DPA will make heating assistance payments only for home heating products (i.e. fuel oil, electricity, natural gas, propane, wood, coal, and in some cases gasoline when used only to harvest and gather wood). Incidental charges necessary for use and delivery of home heating may be paid from an eligible household's heating assistance benefits (i.e. charges for reconnection of service, late payment, delivery, deposits or memberships).

VENDOR CONDITIONS

1. The Vendor will charge the eligible household, in the normal billing process, the difference between the actual cost of the home energy and the amount of the payment received from the Heating Assistance Program. If payment covers only a portion of the balance due, it must be applied to the oldest part of the bill.

2. The Vendor agrees that no household receiving heating assistance will be treated adversely because of such assistance under applicable provision of the State law or public regulatory requirements.
3. The Vendor agrees not to discriminate, either in cost of goods supplied or the services provided, against the household on whose behalf payments are made. Information about grantees and their benefits are to be confidential.
4. The Vendor will, after receipt of the written notice of a household's eligibility and upon the household's request, provide home heating fuel to the eligible household (unless such action violates established company policy). To speed up Vendor notification of a household's eligibility and the delivery of service in emergency situations, Vendors may be advised by telephone by an authorized DPA representative of a household's eligibility.
5. Vendors receiving cash advances from HAP on behalf of eligible households for overdue or future home heating bills must promptly provide verification to HAP that the payments were received and credited to the household's account. This may be accomplished by either a signed statement citing the name, date and the amount credited to the household's account, or by submitting a copy of the household's bill which shows the credited HAP payment. Once confirmation of payment is received by HAP, no further verification of the use of HAP credit is required (except as required by conditions 7 and 8 below).
6. Vendors receiving cash advances on behalf of eligible households must apply such payments only to the home energy portion of the household's account. Vendors must list the credited HAP payment on the household's bill, invoice or statement. Payments may be used only for approved home heating products for the eligible households own use (DPA Condition No. 3) and not for any other non-heating related charges.
7. If a household with a prepaid HAP credit balance chooses to close its service account with the Vendor, the remaining credit must be refunded directly to the household or the DPA. HAP must be notified promptly of refunds made to a household by a statement containing the household's name, amount of the refund, and the date. If the Vendor elects to make the refund to DPA, the check payable to the State of Alaska should be sent to HAP referencing the customer's name. NOTE: Vendor's are not obligated to refund HAP credit upon request of the household unless the household is closing its service account, (i.e. moving or changing home heating vendors).
8. If a household with a prepaid HAP credit balance dies, the credit balance may be left on the same service account for use by surviving family or household members. If there are no other persons in the household continuing to use the service account, the Vendor must promptly refund the remaining credit to the State. Similarly, if a household moves without leaving a forwarding address, the Vendor must promptly refund remaining credit to the State. If a credit balance goes unused for six months and the Vendor cannot contact the client, the credit balance must be refunded to the state.

This agreement is not effective until signed by both parties.

VENDOR

STATE OF ALASKA

Name of company as reported to the I.R.S.

Division of Public Assistance
Name of Organization

Mailing Address

400 Willoughby, Suite 301

City State Zip Code

Juneau, Alaska 99801-1700

Phone No: _____

Phone No: (907) 465-302 _____

FAX No: _____

FAX No: (907) 465-3319 _____

X

Authorized Signature

Authorized Signature

Type or Print Name Above

Melinda Cavanaugh
Type or Print Name Above

Title

Program Coordinator
Title

Date

Date

=====
Please furnish the following information for your company

Business Status:

____ Non-profit

____ Parent

____ Corporation

____ Sole proprietor

____ Subsidiary _____
Name of parent co.

List of communities served:

List of home heating products sold:

_____ Using Parent Tax I.D.

_____ Other

Tax I.D. No: _____

Brand of heating products sold
(Chevron, Union, Tesoro, etc.):

ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Attached are additional certifications required as follows:

- Lobbying certification, which must be filed by all States and territories. If applicable Form LLL, which discloses lobbying payments, must be submitted. (TRIBES and tribal organizations are EXEMPT)
- Debarment and suspension certification, which must be filed by all grantees.
- Drug-free workplace requirement certification, which must be filed by all grantees, unless the grantee has filed a statewide certification with the Department of Health and Human Services.
- If you have filed a statewide certification for the drug-free workplace requirement, please check here: X
- A report on the number and income levels of households applying for and receiving LIHEAP assistance, and on the number of recipient households that have members who are elderly, disabled, or young children.
- Though not a part of this application, the report on funds to be carried over or available for reallocation required by section 2607(a) for the preceding year must be submitted by August 1 of each year. A grant award for the current fiscal year may not be made until it is received.

**2008 HOUSE FINANCE
COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE**

DATE: 7/25/08

Circle Meeting Chair: Meyer Chenault
Hoffman

MEMBER PRESENT ABSENT

RF	REP. FOSTER		
MN	REP. NELSON		
BT	REP. THOMAS	✓	
MK	REP. KELLY	✓	
KM	REP. MEYER	✓	
MC	REP. CHENAULT	✓	
BS	REP. STOLTZE	✓	
LG	REP. GARA <i>on-line</i>		✓
HC	REP. CRAWFORD		
MH	REP. HAWKER	✓	
RJ	REP. JOULE	✓	

Rep Edgeman

HCR

6

SFIN

FILE

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORTED OUT
 MAY 12 2007
 SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: 5/11/07

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED
 IN TO OFFICE: 12 May 2007

Finance Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6(HES)

HCR 6 CIVICS EDUC/ CITIZENS ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Relating to civics education and a citizens' advisory task force.

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous SCS or CS CS HCR 6 (SED)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

SENATE BILL:

Same Title

New Title

HOUSE BILL:

Same Title

Technical Title Change

New Title w/ SCR # _____

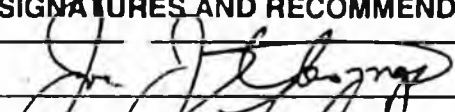
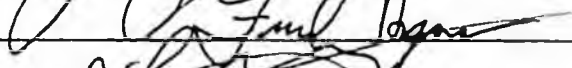
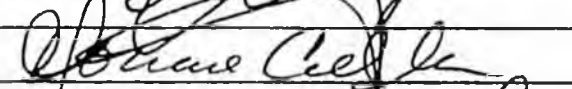
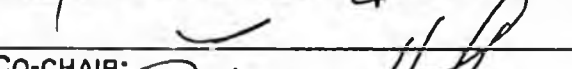

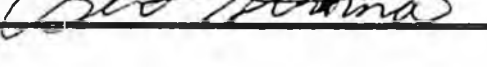
NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
Legislature	4/12/07	18.5			#1
Education	5/3/07	3.0			#2

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Thomas	✓			
	Dyson	✓			
	Huggins	✓			
	Olson			✓	
CO-CHAIR: 	Hoffman	✓			
CO-CHAIR: 	Stedman	✓			

FISCAL NOTE

REPORTED OUT
MAY 12 2007
 SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

STATE OF ALASKA
 2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: CSHCR 6(HES)
 (H) Publish Date: 4/20/07

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Legislature
 Title "Relating to civics education and a citizens' advisory task force." RDU Legislative Council
 Component Council and Subcommittees
 Sponsor Representative Harris
 Requester House HESS Committee Component No. 783

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services	0.0					
Travel	18.0					
Contractual	0.5					
Supplies	0.0					
Equipment	0.0					
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	18.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	18.5					
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	18.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 0.0
 Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)
 HCR 6 establishes a Citizens' Advisory Task Force to review Alaska's content standards for civics education, recommend well-articulated civics curricula, and propose effective professional development strategies for teachers in a comprehensive fashion. The task force will report back to the Legislature and the Alaska Board of Education and Early Development on or before January 1, 2008, on ways to implement the recommendations of the Alaska Civic Learning Assessment Project.
 The Speaker of the House will appoint 2 members to the Task Force, the Senate President will appoint 2 members to the Task Force, and the Governor will appoint 1 member to the Task Force. For the purposes of this fiscal note it is assumed that each Presiding Officer will appoint one Legislator and one citizen to the Task Force. The Governor will appoint one citizen member.

Prepared by: Karla Schofield, Deputy Director Phone 465-6626
 Division Administrative Services Date/Time 4/12/07 8:49 AM
 Approved by: Pamela Varni, Executive Director Date 4/12/07 8:49 AM
 Agency Legislative Affairs Agency

FISCAL NOTE #1

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHCR 6(HES)

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

Costs for staffing the Task Force will be absorbed by the Legislature.

It is anticipated the Task Force will meet three times in FY07 to prepare their report and two members of the Task Force will travel to the Juneau to present their findings to the Legislature in January of 2008. Each meeting of the complete Task Force costs approximately \$5,000.

A small contractual budget is included in this fiscal note for minimal phone expenses and postage to mail the report to interested parties.

The Legislative Affairs Agency will absorb the costs for printing the report and teleconferencing the meetings.

FISCAL NOTE

REPORTED OUT
 MAY 12 2007
 SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
 Bill Version: SCS CSHCR 6(SED)
 (S) Publish Date: 5/11/07

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Education
 Title: "Relating to civics education and a RDU Teaching & Learning Support"
citizens' advisory task force." Component: School and Student Achievement
 Sponsor: Representative Harris
 Requester: Senate Special Committee on Education Component No. 2796

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services						
Travel	3.0					
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	3.0					
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*
 HCR 6 establishes a Citizens' Advisory Task Force to review Alaska's content standards for civics education, recommend well-articulated civics curricula, and propose effective professional development strategies for teachers in a comprehensive fashion. The task force will report back to the Legislature and the Alaska Board of Education & Early Development on or before January 1, 2008, on ways to implement the recommendations of the Alaska Civic Learning Assessment Project.

 The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development will assign a staff member the responsibilities of facilitating the task force meetings and compiling the information for the report to the Legislature. This fiscal note will cover the travel-related expenses for the 3 anticipated face-to-face meetings.

Prepared by: Terri Campbell Phone: 465-8119
 Division: Teaching & Learning Support Date/Time: 5/9/07 8:45 a.m.
 Approved by: Barbara Thompson, Deputy Commissioner Date: 5/9/2007
 Agency: Education & Early Development

Alaska State Legislature

Session: (Jan-May)
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-4859
Fax (907) 465-3799



Interim: (June-Dec)
716 West 4th Avenue, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133
(907) 269-0129
Fax (907) 269-0128

John Harris

Speaker of the House

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 6 (SED) Relating to civics education and a citizens' advisory task force.

The public school system in the United States is a fundamental protection for democracy, but only if each generation learns the importance of civic involvement. The goal of this resolution is to reinvigorate the teaching of civics in our public schools. Those supporting SCS for CSHCR 6 (SED) believe that the first step must be a review of Alaska's civic education policy and a plan for improvement.

The public clearly supports a strong civics education, but in our emphasis on student achievement in the basics of reading, writing and mathematics, the teaching of civics has suffered. The supporters of this resolution believe that with professional development for teachers and improved curricula, Alaska K-12 schools can successfully incorporate civics learning into reading and writing programs.

CSC for CSHCR 6 (SED) follows the work of the Alaska Civic Learning Assessment Project. This group of 19 Alaskans from many walks of life agreed in a recent report that Alaska schools could improve civics learning among K-12 students – indeed, that such an improvement is imperative to the health of our democracy – and made several recommendations for follow-up work. The citizens advisory task force created by SCS for CSHCR 6 (SED) would help advance that follow-up work by focusing on well-articulated civics curriculum and effective professional development strategies for teachers, as well as review existing civics content standards.

The work of the Alaska Civic Learning Assessment Project was funded by a grant from the Alaska Teaching Justice Network and the national Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools. It is anticipated that similar non-state funding sources could be utilized to fund the work of a voluntary citizens advisory task force.

The task force would meet to organize in the Summer of 2007, then hold two other meetings to hone recommendations and complete its report to the Legislature and the Board of Education & Early Development within the first thirty days of next session.



Daily News - Miner

Civics education

Published April 29, 2007

While there is no lack of interest or effort, a report focusing on civic education in Alaska's schools suggests our state could still do a better job of building its next generation of public leaders and involved citizens.

Concurrent resolutions now in the state House and Senate follow recommendations of the report and call for creation of a task force to report by January 2008 on the best ways to strengthen civic education in Alaska's schools.

It's a worthy subject and a resolution supporting the task force should be approved, but the task force will face a difficult question and its recommendations likely will receive scrutiny.

The report of the Alaska Civic Learning Assessment Project issued in November 2006 notes there are numerous civic education efforts that have been carried out or are still active in Alaska's schools, not the least of which are programs like Kids Voting and Youth Courts, both of which are strong in Fairbanks but rely heavily on volunteer efforts and parental involvement.

Still, Alaska lags behind the nation in several respects and past civics efforts have faltered despite dedicated efforts, according to the report. It points out that Alaska does not require students to complete a civics course. It's encouraged but left to the districts. The state also has no department staff dedicated to civics learning, there are no civics curriculum directors in the districts and Alaska is one of only five states that does not have a formal center for law-related education.

Given the size of our population and unique education system, some of that makes sense.

What is clear from the report is that there already are a number of programs available to teachers and students, but time, resources and competing priorities are an issue. That means there is no easy fix. Society recognizes children must be exposed to more than reading, writing and arithmetic to graduate with a well-rounded education, ready for college or the workforce and ready to be productive, involved adult citizens.

Students and teachers who face heavy educational demands have found creative ways to weave civics learning into classrooms down to the kindergarten level. The state's major high schools offer excellent civics options.

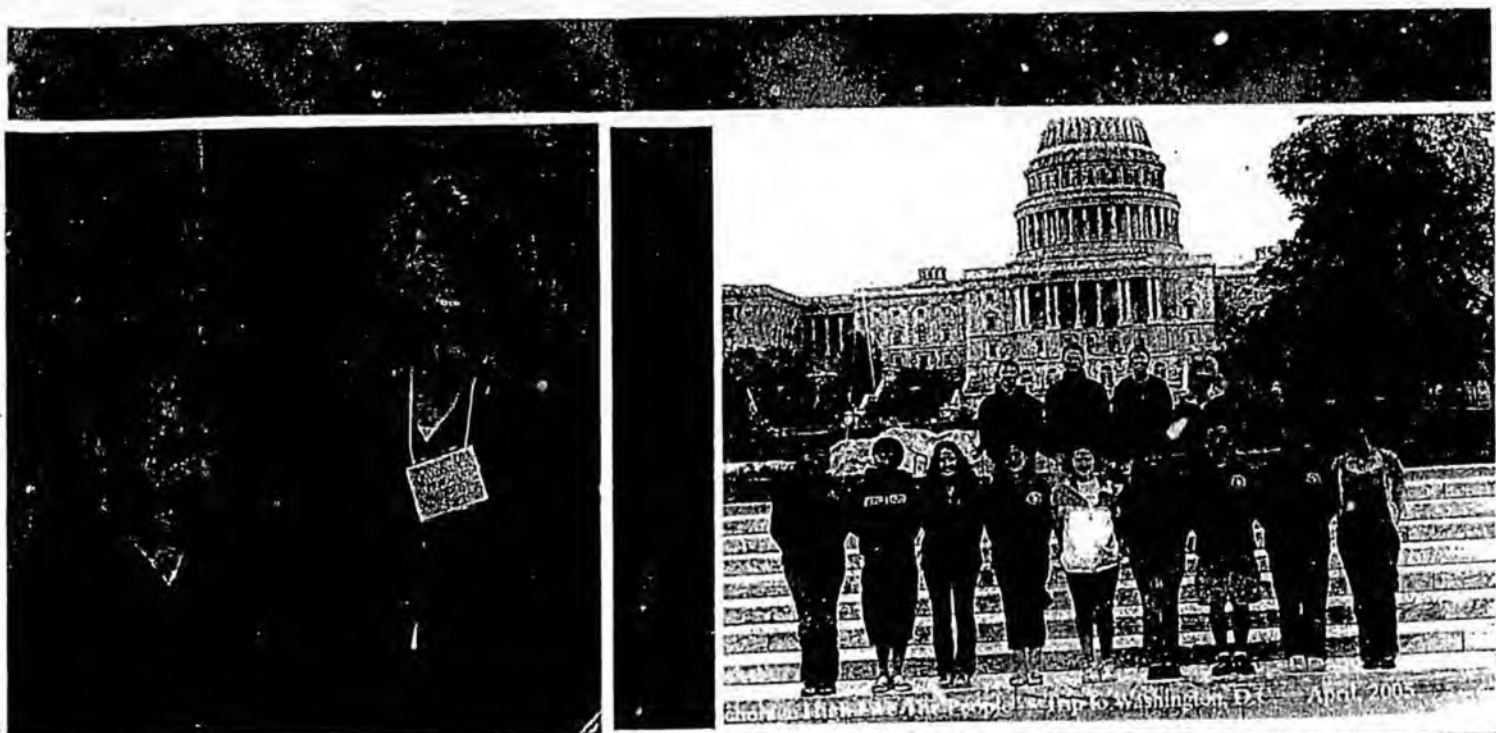
Perhaps a task force can find ways to enhance existing efforts. Any such examination can't ignore the educational roll parents not only should, but must, play. The Kids Voting model has been successful in tying in the activities of parents during an event (Election Day) with in-school learning in even the youngest classrooms. Youth Court relies heavily on adult professionals who volunteer. Offering a required statewide civics course requirement may not be a realistic demand for smaller districts.

A task force can focus on fiscally sustainable ideas to ensure Alaska's children have every advantage

when it comes to civics education now, in the future and for the future.

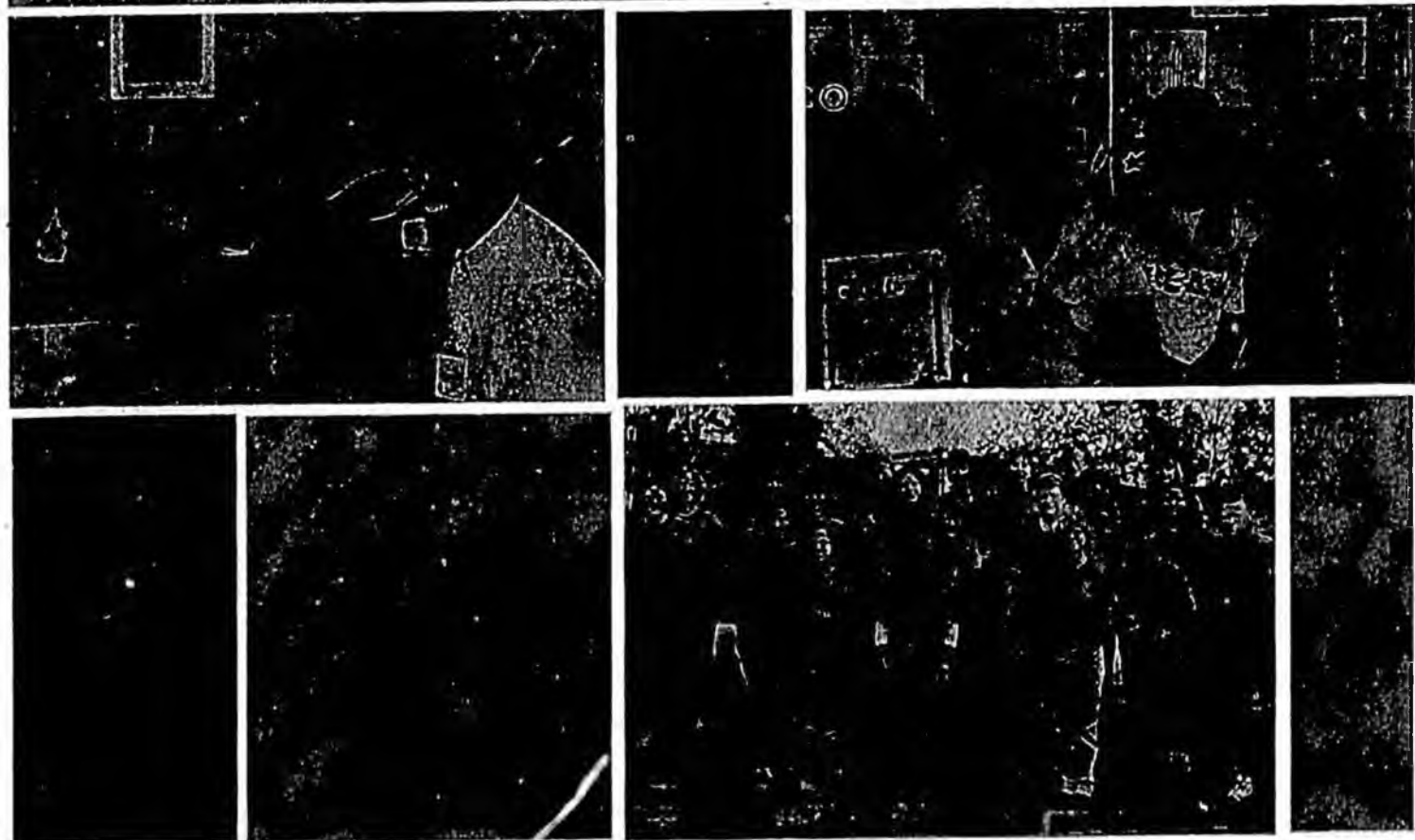
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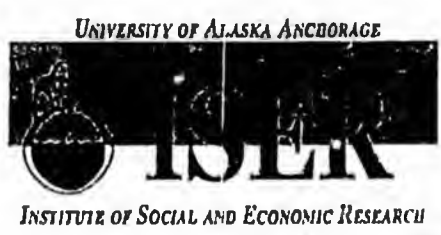
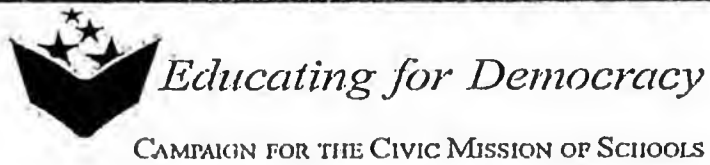
Advancing Civic Learning in Alaska's Schools

November 2006



Special Thanks to the Alaska Civic Learning Assessment Project Advisory Board

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| DANA HARRIS | Chief Justice, Alaska Court System |
| BARBARA HOOD | Executive Director, Youth for Justice |
| STELLA APPENDINO | Executive Director, Alaska PBA |
| MARY BRISTOL | Member of the People for the Citizen Education |
| SENATOR C. M. BUND | Alaska State Legislature |
| MORRIS CHRISTIAN | Member, Alaska Superior Court |
| REPRESENTATIVE JOHN COCCHI | Alaska State Legislature |
| PAUL COLLINS | Member of the People for the Citizen Education |
| ESTHER COX | Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development |
| JOHN DAVIS | Alaska Council of School Administrators |
| SUE GUTER | Alaska Legislature, Alaska Agency |
| ELIZABETH LAWRENCE | Alaska State Bar Association, PBA |
| DENISE MARTINEZ | Alaska State Bar Association, PBA |
| PAUL ONGCOLOK | College of Education, UAA |
| DEBORAH ORRIGAN | Executive Director, Alaska Bar Association |
| PAUL PROSSING | Alaska Dept. of Education & Early Development |
| MASON ROBERTS | Alameda School Board |
| KRISTA SCULLY | Pro Bono Coordinator, Alaska Bar Association |
| LAWRENCE FROSTLE | Justice Center, UAA |



The Alaska Civic Learning Assessment Project was made possible by a grant to the Alaska Teaching Justice Network (ATJN) from the national Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools. The ATJN is an initiative of the Alaska Court System and the Alaska Bar Association's LRE Committee, with support from Youth for Justice, a program of the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice. For more information about the ATJN, please contact Barbara Hood, Coordinator, at 907-264-0879 or bhood@courts.state.ak.us. The recommendations in this report will be carried forward by Alaska's delegation to the U.S. Congressional Conference on Civic Education. For more information about the delegation's efforts, please feel free to contact delegation chair Mary Bristol at 907-333-6725 or akbristol@gei.net.



Educating for Democracy

CAMPAIGN FOR THE CIVIC MISSION OF SCHOOLS

Alaska Civic Learning Assessment Project

Final Report and Policy Brief
November 2006

A Special Project of the
Alaska Teaching Justice Network
In Cooperation With the
Institute of Social & Economic Research
University of Alaska Anchorage

Please direct comments, additions or corrections to:

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A healthy democracy depends on the participation of citizens, and that participation is learned behavior; it doesn't just happen. As the 2003 report "The Civic Mission Schools" noted: "Individuals do not automatically become free and responsible citizens, but must be educated for citizenship." That means civic learning—educating students for democracy—needs to be on par with other academic subjects.

**--Sandra Day O'Connor & Roy Romer
"Not By Math Alone"
The Washington Post, March 25, 2006**

Americans are blessed to live in the world's oldest democracy, and this nation remains a beacon of liberty for the world. But for this or any democracy to work, it must rely on informed and engaged citizens—citizens who understand how their government and political system work as well as their own rights and responsibilities. In recent years, as civic learning has been pushed aside, society has neglected a fundamental purpose of American education, putting the health of our democracy at risk.

**--National Advisory Council,
Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools,
"Call to Action" April 17, 2006**

(T)here is an urgent need to address the low level of civic engagement in America ... Civic education should be seen as a core subject. Well-defined state standards and curricular requirements are necessary to ensure that civic education is taught effectively at each grade level ... Strengthening the civic mission of schools must be a shared responsibility of the public and private sectors at the community, local, state, and national levels.

**--First Annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education
September 2003, Washington, D.C.**

There is now strong evidence that we have allowed the crucial processes and learning indispensable to productive citizenship to become marginalized. In too many schools today, hands-on experience that might teach and train young people in the vital tasks of citizenship remain untaught, unexperienced, and untested ... This neglect must be remedied.

**--Bruce O. Boston, American Youth Policy Forum & Association for
Supervision & Curriculum Development, *Restoring the Balance
Between Academics and Civic Engagement in Public Schools*, 2005**

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Civic Education in America

In late 2002, the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) and Carnegie Corporation of New York, in consultation with the Corporation for National and Community Service, convened a series of meetings involving some of the nation's most distinguished and respected scholars and practitioners in the area of civic education. The purpose was to determine, based on solid data and evidence, the components of effective and feasible civic learning programs. Representing a diversity of political views, a variety of disciplines, and various approaches, these individuals shared a common vision of a richer, more comprehensive approach to civic education in the United States, notwithstanding some disagreement about aspects of how civic education should be conducted.

Their final report, entitled *The Civic Mission of Schools*, is a compelling statement of the national landscape regarding civic learning and the critical role that schools play in fostering citizenship education. Below is an excerpt from the report's Executive Summary:

For more than 250 years, Americans have shared a vision of a democracy in which all citizens understand, appreciate, and engage actively in civic and political life. In recent decades, however, increasing numbers of Americans have disengaged from civic and political institutions such as voluntary associations, religious congregations, community-based organizations, and political and electoral activities such as voting and being informed about public issues. Young people reflect these trends: they are less likely to vote and are less interested in political discussion and public issues than either their older counterparts or young people of past decades. As a result, many young Americans may not be prepared to participate fully in our democracy now and when they become adults.

Recognizing that individuals do not automatically become free and responsible citizens but must be educated for citizenship, scholars; teachers; civic leaders; local, state, and federal policymakers; and federal judges, have with the encouragement of the president of the United States, called for new strategies that can capitalize on young people's idealism and their commitment to service and voluntarism while addressing their disengagement from political and civic institutions. One of the most promising approaches to increase young people's informed engagement is school-based civic education.

The CIRCLE report identified the following major reasons why schools are important venues for civic education:

- It is crucial for the future health of our democracy that all young people, including those who are usually marginalized, be knowledgeable, engaged in their communities and in politics, and committed to the public good.
- Encouraging the development of civic skills and attitudes among young people has been an important goal of education and was the primary impetus for originally establishing public schools.
- Schools are the only institutions with the capacity and mandate to reach virtually every young person in the country. Of all institutions, schools are the most systematically and directly responsible for imparting citizen norms.
- Schools are best equipped to address the cognitive aspects of good citizenship—civic and political knowledge and related skills such as critical thinking and deliberation.
- Schools are communities in which young people learn to interact, argue, and work together with others, an important foundation for future citizenship.

As a result of the CIRCLE report, the national *Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools* (CCMS) was launched in 2004, funded by the Carnegie Corp and the Knight Foundation (www.civicmissionofschools.org). The CCMS campaign is working with coalition members and advocates across the political spectrum to dramatically elevate civic learning as an educational priority. The ultimate goal of the campaign is to ensure that schools in the U.S. provide each and every student with a citizenship education that allows them to acquire the skills, knowledge and attitudes that will prepare them to be competent and responsible citizens throughout their lives. Such citizens are those who:

- are informed and thoughtful about the history and processes of American democracy and public and community issues and have the ability to obtain information, think critically, and participate in dialogue with others who hold different perspectives;
- participate in their communities through organizations working to address cultural, social, political, and religious interests and beliefs;
- act politically using the skills, knowledge and commitment needed to accomplish public purposes such as group problem solving, public speaking, petitioning and protesting, and voting; and

- have moral and civic virtues such as concern for the rights and welfare of others, social responsibility, tolerance and respect, and belief in their ability to make a difference.

As part of the CCMS campaign, competitive grants were awarded to 18 states for projects to advance civic learning. In September 2004, the Alaska Teaching Justice Network (ATJN), a statewide coalition of public, educational, legal, and judicial organizations and individuals dedicated to advancing law-related education in Alaska, secured a small grant from the campaign to conduct the Alaska Civic Learning Assessment (ACLA) Project. The goal of the ACLA Project is to better understand the current state of K-12 civic learning in Alaska and to assess the civic knowledge and experiences of Alaska's youth. The project has focused on both civics topics common across the United States and those unique to Alaska, with the goal of informing efforts to improve civic education in the state.

After a brief overview of national research on civic education, this report presents findings from the ACLA Project research on the current status of civic education in Alaska, the civic knowledge of youth and adults, and the attitudes about civic education held by educators, youth and elders.

B. National Research Findings

A key aspect of the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools has been to support the dissemination of findings from state-level, national, and international research studies. To meet this goal, the campaign has collaborated with a number of other non-profit organizations, foundations, governmental agencies, and private companies, including CIRCLE, the Center for Civic Education, the Education Commission of the States/National Center for Learning and Citizenship, the National Center for Educational Statistics/National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), and the Albert Shanker Institute. Significant study findings from these entities have included the following:

- ***Low Civics Proficiency.*** In 1998, on the last administration of the National Assessment of Educational Progress in civics, only 23% of 4th graders, 23% of 8th graders, and 26% of 12th graders scored at or above "proficient"-the level all students are expected to reach. (NAEP, 1998)
- ***Long-term Decline in Daily Social Studies Offerings.*** Between 1988 and 1998, the proportion of 4th graders who reported taking social studies daily fell from 49% to 39%. (NAEP, 1998)
- ***Social Studies Instruction Reduced in Majority of School Districts in Response to No Child Left Behind Act.*** In response to the NCLB, 71% of districts report reducing elementary school instructional time in at least one other subject to make more time for reading and math. Social studies was

identified by a majority of districts as an area that had been reduced. (Center of Education Policy, 2006).

- ***No Civics Focus in Social Studies Standards; Standards Not Teachable in Time Allowed.*** Of the 48 states with statewide standards for social studies, not one has developed a document that has both a clear focus on civic/political education and is teachable in the limited time teachers have with their students. (Albert Shanker Institute, 2003)
- ***Over Half of States Have No Accountability System for Civics.*** Forty-one states have state statutes that specifically provide for the teaching of government, civics and/or citizenship, and forty-one states require a course or credit requirement in government or civics for high school graduation. But fewer than half of state accountability systems address civics. (Albert Shanker Institute, 2003)
- ***Existing Civics Performance Measures Are Inadequate.*** The content in existing standards can rarely be properly covered in the limited time available to teachers. Therefore, neither student nor teacher performance can be adequately measured by current standardized tests. (Albert Shanker Institute, 2003)

The declining emphasis on civics means a decline in knowledge about American civic values and culture and an accompanying decline in civic engagement. Studies show a strong relationship between civic learning opportunities and citizen awareness and participation. For example:

- ***Learning Leads to Engagement.*** Youth who are exposed to coursework on government and civics are two to three times more likely to vote, pay attention to government and contact elected officials on issues. (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2003)
- ***U.S. Youth Have Only Average Conceptual Understanding of Democratic Principles.*** Research on international comparisons indicates young people in the U.S. generally are adept at evaluating political information that comes to them via mass media. However, their conceptual understanding of core principles of democracy and citizenship—such as the free speech—is only average when compared with students in other countries—even students in some new democracies. (CIRCLE/IEA Civic Education Study, 2004)
- ***Discussion At Home Fosters Higher NAEP Civics Scores.*** Students who said they discussed their school studies (in any subject) at home at least once or twice a week had higher NAEP civics scores than those who did so less frequently. (NAEP, 1998)

- **Wide Disparities in Civic Knowledge Based on Home Resources.** There are large differences in civic knowledge between those U.S. students who come from homes with many literacy or educational resources who expect to attend college, and those who lack these resources and do not expect to attend college (or may not even plan to complete high school). (CIRCLE/IEA Civic Education Study, 2004)

In the context of this research, there is great cause for concern that the shifts in educational goals in recent decades are leaving many of America's young people uninformed about their government and unprepared to take part in it, even at the most basic level. Many young people do not have access in their homes to civic discussion or educational resources that would foster their knowledge and participation in the civic life of their communities, making the role of schools especially vital.

In recent years, formal endorsements of the need to improve civic learning in the nation's schools have come from all corners, including the National Governor's Association; the National Conference of State Legislatures; the Conference of Chief Justices, representing the heads of the judiciaries in all U.S. states and territories; and the Judicial Conference of the United States, the governing body of the federal courts. Clearly, leaders of all branches of government recognize the threat an uninformed and disengaged citizenry poses to our democratic institutions. Put simply, less civic learning means less civic engagement. When people don't learn their rights and responsibilities, they don't exercise them, and our democracy suffers.

C. *Alaska's Unique Challenges to Fostering Civic Learning.*

Alaska has seen several promising civic education initiatives in recent years, including the following:

- **State Standards.** Alaska's State Board of Education adopted "Alaska Contents Standards" for Government and Citizenship that include key civic principles that students should know and understand. These standards serve as a critical underpinning for efforts to further civic education. (<http://www.eed.state.ak.us/standards/pdf/standards.pdf>)
- **Congressional Conference Delegation.** Alaska has sent a bipartisan delegation of state political leaders to the U.S. Congressional Conferences on Civics Education in Washington, DC, in 2003, 2004 and 2005. These delegates, under the coordination of long-time civic educator Mary Bristol, actively support civic education in the state, and several will return to the fourth conference in November 2006, where they will present the recommendations in this report. (www.representativedemocracy.org)

- **Center for Civic Education Programs.** Several national civic education programs have been implemented in Alaska, with growing success, most notably those of the Center for Civic Education (CCE). The high school program, *We the People...The Citizen and the Constitution*, has sponsored statewide competitions on knowledge about the U.S. Constitution for several years, and teams from West High School in Anchorage have participated in the national competition for each of the past five years. CCE's middle school program, *Project Citizen*, which challenges students to seek solutions to community problems, has also met with great success, and in 2004 Alaska's winning team received high honors at the *National Showcase for Project Citizen* at the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL). (www.civiced.org)
- **Legislature's "Back to School" Program.** Alaska's legislators embrace the NCSL's "Back to School" program, which places them in classrooms each fall. Alaska has consistently ranked in the top 10 states for participation. (www.ncsl.org)
- **Close Up.** The Alaska Close Up program has brought students and teachers to Juneau for over 20 years to gain first-hand experience with state government. Over 3000 students have participated during this time. (www.serrc.org; www.closeup.org)
- **Kids Voting/Youth Vote.** Programs featuring mock elections have been used successfully in several communities to allow students to learn and practice the decision-making process entailed in voting. The state Youth Vote Ambassador program also educates young people about exercising the franchise. (www.kidsvoting.org; [www.lwvanchorage.org/downloads/About Youth Vote.doc](http://www.lwvanchorage.org/downloads/About%20Youth%20Vote.doc); lsgov.state.ak.us/vote/)
- **Youth Courts.** The Youth Court movement is strong in Alaska, with over fourteen operating courts statewide. United Youth Courts of Alaska, a non-profit organization, provides support to the local courts and sponsors an annual statewide conference. (www.alaskavouthcourt.org)
- **Alaska Teaching Justice Network.** The Alaska Court System and the Alaska Bar Association spearheaded efforts to promote law-related education (LRE) in the state by founding the ATJN, a coalition of lawyers, judges, educators and others. The network sponsored highly successful statewide conferences on law-related education, *Educating*

on Law and Democracy, in 2004 and 2005, and established an LRE website. (www.alaskabar.org/teachingjustice)

- **Alaska Bar Association LRE Committee.** The Alaska Bar Association sponsors an LRE Committee that is active in promoting Law Day and other educational activities. In 2005 and 2006, the Bar offered grants totaling \$10,000 to support LRE programs in the state. (www.alaskabar.org)
- **Color of Justice.** Alaskan members of the National Association of Women Judges sponsor this program to encourage young women and youth of color to consider careers in the judiciary. The program features an annual two-day workshop in Anchorage, at both the UAA campus and the Anchorage courthouses. Since 2003, over 300 students statewide have participated. (www.nawj.org; bhood@courts.state.ak.us)

Despite the variety and extent of these efforts, Alaska remains without a strong base for ensuring the continued growth and success of civic learning opportunities. Compared with other states, Alaska has lagged behind the nation in several key respects. For example:

- **No State Statute Recognizing Civics as a Key Mission of Schools; No State Required Civics Course.** According to the Education Commission of the States, Alaska is one of only three states that has *neither* a state-level statute specifying that civic learning is a required element of the public school mission *nor* a state-level course or credit requirement for civics. Alaska has only an administrative code stating that "(a) goal of the state public school system is to provide a working knowledge of...government and citizenship..." (04 AAC 04.030) (Education Commission of the States, April 2004)
- **No State Officer Dedicated to Advancing Civic Learning.** The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has no staff specifically dedicated to developing or supporting civic education or civic learning opportunities.
- **No Curriculum Directors for Civics.** Only one school district in the state has a curriculum director dedicated to social studies generally (Anchorage School District), and no school district has staff dedicated specifically to civics curricula and civic learning opportunities.
- **No Formal Center for Law-Related Education [LRE].** In 2003, Alaska was identified by the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's *Youth for Justice*