

2/10/11

Presentation by
Division of
Public
Assistance:
Alaska
Affordable
Heating Program

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Division of Public Assistance Alaska Affordable Heating
Program</SUBJECT><COMM>HENE27</COMM></TARGET>

Fact Sheet
Alaska Affordable Heating Program
February 1, 2011

What is the Alaska Affordable Heating Program?

- AKAHP provides financial assistance in the form of one-time payments to heating vendors for qualified Alaskan households with incomes up to 225% of the federal poverty income guidelines. Under specific circumstances, the income limit may be increased to 250%. Payments are usually made directly to the applicant's heating and/or electric vendor(s).
- The same application is used for all state-administered heating assistance programs, regardless of funding source, to help ensure easier program access.
- The state legislature appropriated \$5 million to finance the Alaska Affordable Heating Program for SFY 2011.
- Heating Assistance payments are based on a number of different factors such as dwelling type and heating source, family size and composition, income and Community Heating Points (CHP).
- Under AKAHP the Department sets a dollar value per CHP used statewide to calculate each household's heating assistance payment. The dollar value set for the CHP is based on the average price of a barrel of North Slope Crude Oil between September and February of the preceding fiscal year. During this period in FY10 the average price was \$75.20 resulting in a CHP value of \$140 for FY11.

| <i>Price NSC</i> | <i>\$75 or less</i> | <i>\$75-\$100</i> | <i>\$100-\$150</i> | <i>More than \$150</i> |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| <i>CHP Value</i> | <i>\$130</i> | <i>\$140</i> | <i>\$150</i> | <i>\$165</i> |

- SB 220 also allows the Department to use AKAHP funding to supplemental benefits to LIHEAP clients if the state does not receive enough federal funding to pay the price per community heating point as established in SB 220.
- AKAHP is currently administered by the State and seven tribal organizations: Aleutian Pribilof Island Association (APIA), Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA), Kenaitze Indian Tribe (KIT), Kuskokwim Native Association (KNA), Orutsaramiut Native Council (ONC), Tanana Chief Conference (TCC), and Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority (THRHA). The following tribes opted out of participating for various reasons: Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA), Yakutat Tlingit Tribe (YTT) and Seldovia Village Tribe (SVT). The state administers for households served by these four organizations.

Recap of FY 2010

- In fiscal year 2010, a total of 2,618 households statewide received heating benefits through State and tribal organizations administering AKHAP, the predecessor to the Alaska Affordable Heating Program. More than half of these applicants (53%) had income between 151% and 175% of poverty level.
- 74 percent of households served through AKHAP by the State included a person who is over the age 60, under the age of 6, or disabled.
- The average AKHAP grant was \$ 712 (this includes a supplemental payment).

FY 2011 Year-To-Date

- To date, 1,247 households have been served. This is a 31% increase over the 952 applicants served during the same time period in FY 2010.
- As of December 2010, the average AKAHP payment was approximately \$549.
- The program year started October 1, with the first benefits issued on October 20, 2010. Applications are accepted until April 30, 2011 and can be found online at www.heatinghelp.alaska.gov. Applications are also available at local DPA offices, or can be mailed to individuals who contact the Heating Assistance Program at 1-800-470-3058.
- Tribal grant agreements have been updated to reflect changes to the former Alaska Heating Assistance Program. The tribal organizations have all received their grants and are paying out benefits to their respective applicants.