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May 6, 2026

Janelle George, Acting Director  
Division of Energy Assistance  
Office of Community Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
330 C Street SW Switzer Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20201

Original sent via email

Dear Ms. George:

In accordance with California Government Code Section 16367.5, the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) is requesting a good cause waiver to use 25 percent of Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds for residential weatherization. The following information is provided in compliance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45, Part 96.83, regarding requests to increase the maximum amount that may be used for weatherization and other energy-related home repair:

- (c)(1) The State of California requests to use 25 percent of its Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 LIHEAP allotment for weatherization.
- (c)(2) The State of California meets only one of the three criteria necessary for a standard waiver request, as described below, and is therefore requesting a good cause waiver:
  - California does not meet (c)(2)(i), because in FY 2026, the combined total (aggregate) number of households in California that will receive LIHEAP heating, cooling, and crisis assistance benefits that are provided from federal LIHEAP allotments from regular and supplemental appropriations ***will be fewer than the combined total (aggregate) number that received such benefits in the preceding FY 2025.***

- California does not meet (c)(2)(ii) because in FY 2026, the combined total amount, in dollars, of LIHEAP heating, cooling, and crisis assistance benefits received by California’s service population that are provided from federal LIHEAP allotments from regular and supplemental appropriations ***will be less than the combined total amount received in the preceding FY 2025.***
- California does meet (c)(2)(iii) because all LIHEAP weatherization activities to be carried out by the state in FY 2026 will produce measurable savings in energy expenditures.

CSD uses weatherization installation and materials standards listed in Appendix A of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) weatherization regulations, 10 CFR Part 440, installation of materials meeting the specific standards incorporated by reference in Appendix A, and weatherization activities specifically allowed by official DOE correspondence and memoranda. The state is citing the above standards as the criteria under which its LIHEAP-funded weatherization activities have been shown to produce measurable savings. DOE reports that for individual families who weatherize their home, the gain is immediate with annual average savings of \$372 or more on their energy bills per year depending on fuel prices.

- (c)(3) With regard to criterion in paragraph (c)(2)(i), the state’s best estimate of the appropriate household totals for the FY for which the waiver is requested (2026) and for the preceding FY 2025 are as follows:

**Households**

Fiscal Year	Heating and Cooling	Crisis	Total
2025*	85,133	64,083	149,216
2026**	79,090	62,416	<b>141,506</b>

\*Data Source: LIHEAP Household Report – Federal Fiscal Year 2025 (submitted 12/22/25)

\*\*Data Source: Actual data obtained from the state’s automated system and estimated data based on current trends and future forecast.

- (c)(4) With regard to criterion in paragraph (c)(2)(ii), the state’s best estimate of the appropriate benefit totals, in dollars, for the FY for which the waiver is requested (2026) and for the preceding FY 2025 are as follows:

**Benefits**

Fiscal Year	Heating and Cooling	Crisis	Total
2025*	\$45,991,368	\$73,906,545	\$119,897,913
2026**	\$42,823,848	\$73,920,806	<b>\$116,744,654</b>

\*Data Source: Actual expenditure data obtained from the state’s automated system.

\*\*Data Source: Actual expenditure data obtained from the state’s automated system and estimated expenditures based on current trends and future forecast.

- (c)(5) With regard to criterion in paragraph (c)(2)(iii), a description of the weatherization activities to be carried out by the state in FY 2026 (with all LIHEAP funds proposed to be used for weatherization, not just with the amount over 15 percent), and an explanation of the specific criteria under which the grant recipient has determined whether these activities have been shown to produce measurable savings in energy expenditures, are provided in subsection (c)(2)(iii) in this letter. In accordance with the referenced DOE guidelines, the following LIHEAP weatherization activities will be performed by CSD contractors during FY 2026.

1. Mandatory measures include:

- a. Dwelling assessment
- b. REM/design energy audit
- c. Combustion appliance safety testing
- d. Blower door testing
- e. Duct leakage testing
- f. Environmental testing
- g. HERS Rating
- h. Permits
- i. Post weatherization inspections
- j. Carbon monoxide alarm
- k. Smoke alarm
- l. Cooking appliance repair/replacement
- m. Cooling appliance repair/replacement
- n. Combustion ventilation air venting
- o. Environmental Hazard Work
- p. Heating appliance repair/replacement

- q. Water heater repair/replacement
- r. Attic venting
- s. Ceiling insulation
- t. Duct insulation
- u. Duct repair, sealing, and replacement
- v. Exterior door and sliding glass door repair/replacement
- w. Filter replacement
- x. Hot water flow restrictors
- y. HVAC Blower Upgrades
- z. Infiltration reduction
- aa. Kitchen exhaust installation, repair/replacement
- bb. Kneewall insulation
- cc. Lighting
- dd. Limited home repair
- ee. Low flow toilet
- ff. Mechanical ventilation
- gg. Microwave oven
- hh. Refrigerator replacement
- ii. Thermostats
- jj. Vacancy sensor switch
- kk. Water heater insulation
- ll. Water heater pipe insulation
- mm. Whole house fans
- nn. Window repair/replacement

2. Optional measures include:

- a. Ceiling fans
- b. Clothes Washer Replacement
- c. Clothes Dryer Replacement
- d. Dishwasher Replacement
- e. Door replacement
- f. Electric water heater timer
- g. Exterior pipe wrap
- h. Floor foundation venting
- i. Floor insulation

- j. Heating source replacement
  - k. Power strips
  - l. Shade screens
  - m. Storm windows
  - n. Tinted window film
  - o. Wall insulation, stucco and wood
  - p. Water heater installation
- (c)(6) A description of how and when the proposed waiver request was made available for timely and meaningful public review and comment, copies and/or summaries of any comments received on the request (including transcripts and/or summaries of any comments made), a statement of the method for reviewing public comments, and a statement of the changes, if any, that were made in response to these comments, are included.

A public notice was posted on April 1, 2026, to accept comments on the state's request to increase the LIHEAP weatherization component from 15 to 25 percent. The attached notice was published on CSD's social media pages on April 1, 2026. Both the Draft Weatherization Waiver Request and the Public Notice were posted on the CSD website for a period of ten days, April 1, 2026 through April 15, 2026. CSD received seven comments on the request from the public. CSD reviewed all the comments received, and copies of the comments as well as CSD's responses are provided to the Office of Community Services (OCS) as an attachment.

- (e)(1)(i) For each criterion under paragraph (c)(2) that the state does not meet, an explanation of the specific reasons demonstrating good cause why the state does not meet the criterion and yet proposes to use additional funds for weatherization, citing measurable, quantified data, and stating the source(s) of the data used:

Under paragraph (c)(2) of Section 96.83, the state does not meet criterion (c)(2)(i) for the following reasons:

In FY 2025, California used federal LIHEAP allotments from supplemental appropriations obligated in previous years under the Continuing Resolution and the Continuing Appropriations Act. These additional funds allowed CSD to assist additional households with LIHEAP heating, cooling, and crisis assistance benefits. In the absence of supplemental appropriations, the state's best estimate is that in FY 2026 the combined total (aggregate) number of households assisted will be fewer than the combined total (aggregate) number that received such benefits in FY 2025.

Under paragraph (c)(2) of Section 96.83, the state does not meet criterion (c)(2)(ii) for the following reasons:

In FY 2025, California used federal LIHEAP allotments from supplemental appropriations obligated in previous years under the Continuing Resolution and the Continuing Appropriations Act. These additional funds allowed CSD to provide the state's service population with a higher combined total (aggregate) amount, in dollars, of LIHEAP heating, cooling, and crisis assistance benefits. In the absence of supplemental appropriations, the state's best estimate is that in FY 2026, the combined total (aggregate) amount, in dollars, of LIHEAP heating, cooling, and crisis assistance benefits received by the state's service population will be less than the combined total (aggregate) amount received in FY 2025.

- (e)(1)(ii) A statement of the state's LIHEAP heating, cooling, and crisis assistance eligibility standards (eligibility criteria) and benefit levels for fiscal years 2025 and 2026; and if eligibility standards were less restrictive and/or benefit levels were higher in the preceding fiscal year for one or more of these program components, an explanation of the reasons demonstrating good cause why a waiver should be granted in spite of this fact:

The state's LIHEAP heating, cooling, and crisis assistance eligibility standards (eligibility criteria) remained the same in FY 2026 as in FY 2025. The maximum income eligibility threshold of 60 percent of the State Median Income was updated to the 2025 estimates calculated and published by OCS. This threshold increased in FY 2026 as compared to FY 2025 for all customer household sizes and poverty groups. Therefore, the eligibility standards were not less restrictive in the preceding fiscal year.

The state's average LIHEAP heating, cooling, and crisis assistance benefit levels are higher in FY 2026 as compared to FY 2025.

- (e)(1)(iii) A statement of the state's opening and closing dates for applications for LIHEAP heating, cooling, and crisis assistance for fiscal years 2025 and 2026, and a description of the state's outreach efforts for heating, cooling, and crisis assistance in fiscal years 2025 and 2026, and, if the state's application period was longer and/or outreach efforts were greater in federal fiscal year 2025 for one or more of these program components, an explanation of the reasons demonstrating good cause why a waiver should be granted in spite of this fact:

The state operates its heating, cooling, and crisis assistance programs on a calendar year basis. The opening and closing dates for these programs have remained consistent since January 1, 1996. For LIHEAP calendar year 2026, the state will continue to operate on the normal calendar year operation (January through December) for the heating/cooling and crisis assistance programs.

Because the heating, cooling, and crisis assistance programs are administered at the local level, the outreach efforts are the responsibility of the LIHEAP Local Service Providers (LSPs). LSPs advise CSD in their annual local plans of their methods for conducting outreach to ensure the low-income population in their communities are made aware of LIHEAP services available, and outreach efforts vary by agency. The outreach efforts consist of posters/flyers, newspaper articles, broadcast media announcements, inserts in energy vendor billings, mass mailings, collaboration with other low-income program offices, partnerships with utility companies, participation in community events, CSD and LSP websites, special events, neighborhood canvassing, and word of mouth.

- (e)(1)(iv) If the state took, or will take, other actions that led, or will lead, to a reduction in the number of applications for LIHEAP heating, cooling, and/or crisis assistance, from FY 2025 to FY 2026, a description of the actions and an explanation demonstrating good cause why a waiver should be granted in spite of these actions.

In addition to the preceding information as noted in subsections (c)(1) through (e)(1)(iv), as required by federal regulations, there are other reasons why the state is requesting to use 25 percent of the LIHEAP allotment for weatherization. While the state remains cognizant of the increasing energy needs of California's low-income population, great consideration has been given to the overall benefits achieved in weatherizing a home: safely increasing the efficiency of home energy consumption, thus lowering home energy bills and making homes more comfortable. The long-term benefits of weatherization and related activities, such as educating consumers on energy saving measures, continue to be researched and validated by organizations such as the DOE Office of State and Community Energy Programs.

This information should be sufficient to enable the Office of Community Services to grant a waiver to the State of California to increase its weatherization to 25 percent for a program that provides meaningful, long-term benefits to California's low-income households. However, if you have any questions, please contact Lillibeth Campos, Program Manager, at (916) 426-9985 or [Lillibeth.Campos@csd.ca.gov](mailto:Lillibeth.Campos@csd.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Jason Wimbley*

JASON WIMBLEY  
Director

PUBLIC NOTICE - STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT  
LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
2026 WEATHERIZATION WAIVER REQUEST

The State of California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) posts this public notice to receive written comments on the DRAFT request for a Weatherization Waiver for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). A copy of this notice and the LIHEAP Weatherization Waiver request is available by accessing CSD's website at <https://www.csd.ca.gov> (under "Public Notices").

Persons are requested to provide written comments to the Department of Community Services and Development, 2389 Gateway Oaks Drive #100, Sacramento, CA 95833, Attention: Lilibeth Campos, Program Manager, Energy and Environmental Services Division or via email to [energy.helpdesk@csd.ca.gov](mailto:energy.helpdesk@csd.ca.gov). Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., April 15, 2026.



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# Public Notice

## Notice of Public Comment: Draft 2026 LIHEAP Weatherization Waiver Request

The Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) has posted the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Draft 2026 Weatherization Waiver Request.

- [Draft 2026 LIHEAP Weatherization Waiver Request \(Released April 1, 2026\)](#)
- [2026 Public Notice \(Issued April 1, 2026\)](#)

Interested parties have the opportunity to review and submit comments on the Draft 2026 LIHEAP Weatherization Waiver Request until 5:00 p.m. on April 15, 2026. Comments may be submitted by email to [Energy.HelpDesk@csd.ca.gov](mailto:Energy.HelpDesk@csd.ca.gov) or mailed to:

Department of Community Services and Development  
Attention: Lilibeth Campos, Program Manager, Energy and Environmental Services Division  
2389 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite #100  
Sacramento, CA 95833



# California Department of Community Services & Development's Post



**California Department of Community Services & Development**

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CSD has posted the 2026 Draft Request for a Weatherization Waiver for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on April 15, 2026.

A copy of this notice and the LIHEAP Weatherization Waiver request is available at:

CSD.CA.GOV

**Public Notice**



## Post



**Department of Community Services and Development**

@ca\_csd

CSD has posted the 2026 Draft Request for a Weatherization Waiver for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., April 15, 2026. More info at: [csd.ca.gov/Pages/Notice-o...](https://csd.ca.gov/Pages/Notice-o...)

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CSD has posted the 2026 Draft Request for a Weatherization Waiver for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., April 15, 2026. More info at: [ow.ly/H9pu50YBSxh](https://ow.ly/H9pu50YBSxh)

10:02 AM · Apr 1, 2026 Everybody can reply



**2026 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)  
Draft Weatherization Waiver Request Public Comment Summary  
April 2026**

<b>Commenter</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>CSD Response</b>
<i>Individual</i>	1. These programs are great for California low income residents. Services like these benefit low income homeowners with houses that are 70+ years old. It's not wasteful spending, it's very helpful.	Thank you for your comment.
<i>Individual</i>	2. I have reviewed the complete list of areas covered under the LIHEAP Weatherization Waiver and noted that roof repairs and replacements are not included. Could you please clarify why roof work is not considered part of the Weatherization program? Additionally, are there other programs available that provide assistance with roof repairs or replacements? Thank you for your help.	<p><b>To help keep families safe and healthy, LIHEAP funds can be used for minor energy-related home repairs, such as leaks that cause heating or cooling loss, thus improving energy efficiency and safety. However, total roof replacement is not an allowable use of LIHEAP funds.</b></p> <p><b>Californians needing help with roof repairs can access several federal, state, and local programs, including grants for seniors, low-interest loans, and non-profit services aimed at improving home safety and energy efficiency. Here is a limited list of various programs, some of which may not be available in all areas:</b></p> <p><b>1. Federal Assistance Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>USDA Section 504 Home Repair Program:</b> This program provides loans up to \$40,000 and grants up to \$10,000 to very-low-income homeowners, particularly seniors (age 62 or older) in eligible rural areas to remove health and safety hazards like leaking roofs.</li> <li>• <b>HUD Title I Property Improvement Loans:</b> Provides loans up to \$25,000 for home repairs (including roofs) that do not require significant home equity, allowing for easier approval.</li> </ul>

**2026 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)  
Draft Weatherization Waiver Request Public Comment Summary  
April 2026**

Commenter	Comment	CSD Response
		<p><b>2. California State and Local Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>California Safe Homes Grant Program (Effective 2026):</b> A new program designed to assist low- and middle-income homeowners in high-wildfire risk areas with funds for fire-safe roofs and 5-foot ember-resistant zones.</li> <li>• <b>ReCoverCA:</b> Assists eligible homeowners in areas impacted by disasters with funding for repairs.</li> <li>• <b>LA County Senior Grant Program:</b> Offers up to \$20,000 to low-income seniors (62+) for essential home repairs, including roofs, in unincorporated areas.</li> <li>• <b>Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA):</b> Offers an Emergency Home Repair Program for low-income owner-occupants in Sacramento County for fixing safety hazards like roof leaks.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Nonprofit Organizations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rebuilding Together:</b> Local California affiliates (e.g., Sacramento, Long Beach, Peninsula) provide free home repairs to eligible low-income seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities.</li> <li>• <b>Habitat for Humanity:</b> Offers "critical home repair" programs that include roof replacements, often structuring them as affordable loans or sweat-equity partnerships.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Utility Company Programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PG&amp;E Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) Program:</b> Offers income-qualified homeowners free energy-saving home upgrades that can include repairs to improve home insulation.</li> <li>• <b>SoCalGas:</b> Provides weatherization services that may include addressing structural issues related to energy performance.</li> </ul>

**2026 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)  
Draft Weatherization Waiver Request Public Comment Summary  
April 2026**

Commenter	Comment	CSD Response
<i>Individual</i>	<p>3. I received a notice of California's request for a waiver allowing the use of 25% of LIHEAP funds on weatherization. I have read the reasoning and do not find it to be very beneficial to the low-income population that these funds are intended for. As a low income individual in the state of California that qualifies for LIHEAP AND THE WEATHERIZATION programs, I have found THEM INACCESSIBLE. There are never any funds available when applying for LIHEAP after the first few months in the year. The waiver would take funds from a program that is already extremely underfunded. Also, the weatherization program does not seem very useful if your power is disconnected. If funds are used for weatherization, LIHEAP may not have funds available for people suffering financial hardship. Based on this information, I do not believe that California should be granted a waiver to</p>	<p><b>California's LIHEAP provides a wide range of services to address the short- and long-term energy needs of low-income households, including those associated with an energy emergency. Consistent with this service approach, California law (Government Code § 16367.5) requires the Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) to submit a Weatherization Waiver request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to use 25 percent of LIHEAP funds for residential weatherization and other energy-related home repairs to improve the health, safety, and energy efficiency of low-income housing. Weatherization services benefit low-income households by helping to lower the financial burden of home energy over the long term.</b></p>

**2026 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)  
Draft Weatherization Waiver Request Public Comment Summary  
April 2026**

<b>Commenter</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>CSD Response</b>
	take additional funds from a program that is already extremely underfunded.	
<b>Individual</b>	4. What are the next steps on my application for the weatherization program?	<b><i>CSD staff followed up with this individual to address their specific request.</i></b>
<b>Individual</b>	<p>5. UTILITIES            Money is needed for utility bills, applications are delayed or not acknowledged, office hours are non-ADA compatible (people apparently start lining up at 4:30am in downtown LA). LIHWAP water program is needed too.</p> <p>WEATHERIZATION            For years I have been applying and getting seasonal run arounds re: A/C and Heating for my 1920s era home. At this time, I need a split to provide heating and cooling installed. In my home, it is 10-20 degrees hotter inside than out, 90 degrees at 10pm during a heat wave and 10-20 degrees cooler (approx. 40 degrees in the winter).</p>	<b><i>CSD staff followed up with this individual to address their specific request.</i></b>

**2026 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)  
Draft Weatherization Waiver Request Public Comment Summary  
April 2026**

<b>Commenter</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>CSD Response</b>
	<p>A Disabled Senior, I have repeatedly supplied Doctors notes as to the necessity for consistent temperature for myself; I also have a small dog. Getting to a cooling station is not an option. I am reliant on others for transportation. Edison has only recently upgraded some of its outdated and shoddy service and still neglects its infrastructure. (I am also being terrorized and isolated by my City's Administration; I'm largely disabled courtesy of them). We are going into another possible heatwave. This is Urgent. Please help. Thank you.</p>	
<b>Individual</b>	<p>6. To whom it may concern: I received this email about weather...It said If I want to leave a comment click the link. If this is about PG&amp;E, Please don't go up on my Bill. I'm already paying \$119.00. If you can send me a link to help me pay this Bill, that would be Great. Thank you. Have a great day.</p>	<p><b><i>CSD staff followed up with this individual to address their specific request.</i></b></p>

**2026 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)  
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April 2026**

<b>Commenter</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>CSD Response</b>
<i>Individual</i>	7. Is there a way I can get some of my old windows replaced?	<i>CSD staff followed up with this individual to address their specific request.</i>