



MICHAEL P. STARKOWSKI  
Commissioner

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

TELEPHONE  
(860) 424-5033

TDD/TTY  
1-800-842-4524

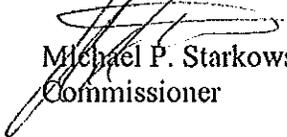
FAX  
(860) 424-5057

EMAIL  
[comail@dss@ct.gov](mailto:comail@dss@ct.gov)

**TO:** The Honorable Toni Nathaniel Harp, Senate Chair  
The Honorable John Geragosian, House Chair  
The Honorable Dan Debicella, Senate Ranking Member  
The Honorable Craig Miner, House Ranking Member  
Members of the Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Paul Doyle, Senate Chair  
The Honorable Toni Walker, House Chair  
The Honorable Robert Kane, Senate Ranking Member  
The Honorable Lile R. Gibbons, House Ranking Member  
Members of the Human Services Committee

The Honorable John W. Fonfara, Senate Chair  
The Honorable Vickie O. Nardello, House Chair  
The Honorable Kevin D. Witkos  
The Honorable Sean J. Williams  
Members of the Energy and Technology Committee

**FROM:**   
Michael P. Starkowski  
Commissioner

**RE:** PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO 2008-2009 LOW-INCOME HOME  
ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP) ALLOCATION  
PLAN

**DATE:** July 21, 2009

---

In accordance with the provision of Section 4-28b of the Connecticut General Statutes, I am pleased to submit to the Appropriations, Human Services and Energy and Technology Committees of the Connecticut General Assembly a proposed amendment to the 2008-2009 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Block Grant Allocation Plan.

The proposed amendment would allow the department to direct up to \$2 million in surplus LIHEAP funds to homeless and domestic violence shelters. The funds would be used to reimburse the shelters for heating expenses incurred during the winter months.

We believe this additional funding would help to mitigate the recent federal reductions to the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) that have had a negative financial impact on our homeless shelters.

July 21, 2009

Page 2

With the federal requirement that these funds must be expended by September 30, 2009, we are requesting expedited approval of this proposed amendment. If your approval of this proposal is received, we will immediately submit it to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to obtain federal approval. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal with you at your earliest convenience. Please do not hesitate to contact Heather Severance @ 424-5646, DSS Legislative Liaison or contact me directly @ 424-5053 should you have any questions or concerns in the meantime.

Thank you.

MPS

Attachment

cc: The Honorable M. Jodi Rell, Governor  
The Honorable Robert Genuario, Secretary, OPM  
The Honorable Donald E. Williams, President Pro Tempore of the Senate  
The Honorable Christopher G. Donovan, Speaker of the House of Representatives

AMENDMENT TO THE 2008/2009 ALLOCATION PLAN FOR THE LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BLOCK GRANT AS APPROVED ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2008 WITH LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT INCORPORATED

The amendment to Section XIV. is in *italics* below.

**XIV. ADDITIONAL BENEFITS/SERVICES**

Should funds received exceed the amount required to meet the benefit levels specified in this Plan, the additional funds may be utilized to extend the program intake period, provide additional funds for furnace repairs and/or replacements, extend the authorization period for Basic Benefits, Crisis Assistance and/or Safety Net Assistance, provide additional Crisis Assistance and/or Safety Net Assistance benefits, provide an additional benefit on behalf of eligible utility heated households and/or implement a pre-buy program for next year's heating season.

*Additional funds will be used to pay the heating costs of shelters for the homeless and domestic violence shelters. Deliverable fuel heating costs will be covered for the period November 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009 and utility heating costs will be covered for the period November 1, 2008 to May 1, 2009. Bills must be provided in order for payment to be made.*

Should contingency funds be released and designated to be used for cooling measures, funds will be used in accordance with guidance provided by HHS.