

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Office of Community Services (OCS) at the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), announced the release of \$3.7 billion in LIHEAP funding to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, three territories, and more than 125 tribes. This amount includes the regular block grant appropriation and an additional \$100 million appropriated for FY 2024 from President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

North Carolina was awarded a total of \$102,467,505.00 to assist low-income families ahead of the winter season. This includes:

- **\$99,972,926.00** from the regular LIHEAP block grant funding
- **\$2,494,579.00** in funding appropriated for FY2024 from IIJA

LIHEAP Directly Funded Tribes in North Carolina: **2024 LIHEAP Funds**

OCS funds tribal nations in North Carolina that administer LIHEAP directly. Information about directly funded tribal LIHEAP programs in North Carolina is included below. The total amount funded directly to tribes: \$1,971,757.00.

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	\$114,376.00
Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina	\$1,857,381.00

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low-income households pay home heating and cooling bills, prevent energy shutoffs, restore services, make minor energy-related home repairs, and weatherize homes to make them more energy efficient

In addition to this funding release, OCS is also officially launching the LIHEAP Eligibility Tool. This user-friendly tool allows households across the country to quickly identify if they might be eligible for LIHEAP assistance by inputting basic information like income and household size.

The LIHEAP Eligibility Tool can be found on **energyhelp.us** and is available in Spanish, Traditional Chinese, and Simplified Chinese.

OCS has also released the LIHEAP **Heating Assistance Toolkit**, which includes a variety of outreach materials, spotlight videos, and winter safety resources designed to help keep families safe and warm during cold weather.

Individuals interested in applying for energy assistance can also visit **energyhelp.us** or call the National Energy Assistance Referral (NEAR) hotline toll-free at: **1-866-674-6327**.