

TRIBAL LIHEAP: FEDERAL AND STATE PERSPECTIVES

NATIONAL ENERGY AND UTILITY AFFORDABILITY
CONFERENCE

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JUNE 17, 2008

OBJECTIVES OF MY PRESENTATION

1. TO HIGHLIGHT THE LIHEAP STATUTE/REGULATIONS IN REGARDS TO STATE/TRIBAL NEGOTIATIONS
2. TO DESCRIBE THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND MONTANA'S APPROACH
3. TO DESCRIBE THE HISTORY AND RATIONALE BEHIND MONTANA'S LIHEAP WORK WITH TRIBES
4. TO HIGHLIGHT OTHER EFFORTS WE AND THE TRIBES ARE WORKING ON TO HELP LOW-INCOME PEOPLE
5. PARTING THOUGHTS

LIHEAP STATUTE

**CONTAINED IN SECTION 2604 OF THE
LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY
ASSISTANCE ACT AS AMENDED, AND
HHS REGS TITLE 45, PART 96.**

**BASICALLY 2 CHOICES -
TRIBAL/STATE AGREEMENT OR
TRIBE'S PERCENTAGE OF CENSUS
DETERMINED ELIGIBLE.**

MONTANA'S PHILOSOPHY

ALL LOW INCOME MONTANANS SHOULD HAVE ADEQUATE HOME HEATING TO ENSURE HEALTH AND SAFETY.

STATE MUST SHARE RESPONSIBILITY WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS, UTILITY COMPANIES, PRIVATE CHARITIES AND INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLDS.

TRIBAL RESIDENTS ARE BEST SERVED BY MAINTAINING DIRECT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

HISTORY AND RATIONALE

BEFORE LIHEAP WAS A BLOCK GRANT, HHS HAD LIEAP. WHEN THE BLOCK GRANT WAS INSTITUTED, WE USED THE PERCENTAGE OF THE OVERALL LIEAP THAT EACH TRIBE HAD SERVED.

NO RELATION TO CENSUS NUMBERS OR ANY AGREEMENT WITH STATE. OVERALL, 300% OF CENSUS NUMBERS, BUT DISPARITY AMONG TRIBES WAS GREAT. SOME AT 250% OF CENSUS, ONE AT 450%.

CAUSED GREAT DISRUPTION AND TURMOIL

FINALLY PROPOSED THAT ALL TRIBES WOULD GO TO 300% OF CENSUS. THOSE THAT LOST WOULD BE HELD HARMLESS FOR A YEAR. ALSO GAVE THE OPTION THAT TRIBES COULD CONTRACT WITH US. NONE WERE INTERESTED.

OUR CURRENT AGREEMENTS USED NEWEST CENSUS NUMBERS AND ALL TRIBES GET A PERCENTAGE, NOT A DOLLAR AMOUNT.

OTHER STATE/TRIBAL EFFORTS

**WORKED WITH GOVERNOR'S OFFICE TO
SUBMIT LEGISLATIVE FUNDING
REQUEST**

TRIBES VERY ACTIVE IN TESTIFYING

**RESULTED IN STATE FUNDS, FOR THE
FIRST TIME, BEING AVAILABLE**

GOVERNOR ALSO INSTITUTED WARM HOMES/WARM HEARTS STATEWIDE, INCLUDING RESERVATIONS.

STATE'S LEVERAGING ACTIVITIES USED BY TRIBES TO SECURE HHS FUNDS

STATE PSC ACTIVITIES GETS USB MONEY TO TRIBES

PARTING THOUGHTS

- APPRECIATE DIFFERENCES
- BE FAIR
- EXPLAIN OPTIONS
- BUILD SUPPORT
- BITE THE BULLET