

Managing the Peaks and Valleys of Funding in Washington State

Peaks

- Extended energy season from June 30th to August 31st
- Increased our furnace repair dollars to reflect current prices
- Promoted outreach regarding furnace repair and furnace maintenance to all homeowners served during the energy season. One agency created and marketed a program titled “Clean Heat”
- Collaborated with utilities
- Coordinated Regional Roundtables
- Increased maximum benefit from \$750.00 to \$1,000.00
- Promoted collaboration with weatherization at the agency level, transfer of weatherization dollars
- Increase in shelter assistance programs at the Community Action Agency level
- Increased outreach efforts through Meals on Wheels, ECEAP, Area Agency on Aging, Immigrant and Refugee Services
- Increased hours and staffing levels
- Outreach through other community service workers who now take LIHEAP applications (paid hourly by LIHEAP program although not LIHEAP staff)
- Move to web based appointment system which alleviated stress of busy lines, and worked well for case managers and non English speaking advocates to ease appointment scheduling
- Offered incentives such as LIHEAP appointment scheduled at Conservation Education workshop

Valleys

- Energy Forum to face the challenge of serving households with the decrease of the funding next season. Network, strategize, collaborate, etc. Forum with all stakeholders to strategize stronger web of service in face of decrease. For example, utilities, agencies that provide any type of energy assistance, Salvation Army, FEMA, private energy

assistance channels (foundations), fuel funds (warm neighbor), project pride (Red Cross), Referral Services (senior, 211, etc), Housing Authority, DSHS, Council members, Board of County commissioners, etc.

- Decrease in staffing levels