

Northern California Indian Development Council (NCIDC)

LIHEAP Benefit Matrix Instructions

The Benefit Matrix will determine the maximum amount a household can receive in energy assistance. The amount will be determined based on the household size and total annual income. A household can qualify for LIHEAP based on one of two options: either categorical eligibility or total household income.

Categorical Eligibility:

If any member of the household receives any of the following benefits, that household is categorically eligible for LIHEAP:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Food Stamps (SNAP)

“Categorical eligibility” means that a household is considered to have automatically passed an income eligibility test because a household member has already been determined to meet income eligibility requirements of one of the means-tested programs above. Current documentation proving that the household member receives that benefit is required.

Once a household is determined to be eligible through categorical eligibility, additional supporting documentation for income is not needed. However, for reporting purposes, the household is still required to include the total amount of income that they make on the LIHEAP application.

Categorically eligible households are eligible to receive the maximum amount of assistance, not including the additional \$100 benefit unless they are a member of one of the priority populations.

Household Income:

Calculate annual income using household income documentation provided by the applicant. Once you have the annual income amount you will then locate the household size and highlight the appropriate tier.

Bank statements are only accepted as income documentation for people who are self-employed. If an individual receives Per Capita payments of less than \$2,000 in total per year, then this is not counted in the income eligibility calculations. However, proof of the Per Capita payments is still required. If a Tribe in the consortium submits a Tribal resolution to NCIDC for their specific funding allocation, NCIDC will provide an exception and not consider Tribal General Welfare as income for individual Tribes. Otherwise, Tribal General Welfare is considered income. This exception will not be applied to any funding the Tribe spends above their specific funding allocation during the Tribal consortium spend-down period.

Then you will look to see if the household qualifies for the additional \$100 benefit that is given to the priority populations.

Benefit Amounts:

The benefit amounts shown are the maximum benefit limits for the NCIDC LIHEAP program that serves a consortium of 48 Tribes located in California.

Each Tribe's Council or governing body may request that these benefit amounts be decreased for their eligible population by submitting a Tribal resolution to NCIDC for their specific funding allocation. However, Tribes may not issue any single benefit payment amount for less than \$50, and they may not increase or exceed the maximum annual benefit amounts shown here. This limitation will not be applied to any funding the Tribe spends above their specific funding allocation during the Tribal consortium spend-down period.