



LIHEAP Working Group

8/5/2024

Agenda

- I. Convene Meeting
- II. Welcome and Introductions
- III. Purpose of Work Group and Statutory Requirement
- IV. Next steps
- V. Announcement of Time and Date of Next Meeting
- VI. Adjourn

Introductions: Official Working Group Members

Per Public Act 24-145, the working group shall consist of:

- (1) A member of an organization representing deliverable fuel vendors in the state: **Chris Herb**, CEMA
- (2) a representative of a community action agency that contracts with the commissioner to administer the state energy assistance program: **Michelle James**, Executive Director of CAAWC
- (3) a representative from the Department of Administrative Services: **Kristin Allen**, DAS Contract Specialist
- (4) an individual who represents the interests and financial concerns of recipients of energy assistance provided under the state energy assistance program: **Matthew Dillon**, CT Legal Services
- (5) a representative from the Office of the Consumer Counsel: **Kim White**, OCC

Introductions (continued)

- Members of the public
- Agency staff

Purpose of the Work Group; Statutory Requirement

✓ **Study best practices utilized in other states**

Public Act No. 24-145, [House Bill 5426](#): Section 1. (Effective from passage) (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall convene a working group to study best practices utilized in other states to fairly compensate deliverable fuel vendors participating in energy assistance programs while maintaining the maximum amount of funding to benefit recipients of such programs. The study shall include, but need not be limited to, the benefits and drawbacks of bulk state purchases of deliverable fuel for the state energy assistance program.

✓ **Study bulk purchasing**

(b) The working group shall consist of: (1) A member of an organization representing deliverable fuel vendors in the state, (2) a representative of a community action agency that contracts with the commissioner to administer the state energy assistance program funded under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, as amended from time to time, (3) a representative from the Department of Administrative Services, (4) an individual who represents the interests and financial concerns of recipients of energy assistance provided under the state energy assistance program, and (5) a representative from the Office of the Consumer Counsel. Substitute House Bill No. 5426 Public Act No. 24-145.

✓ **DSS to report on the working group's study efforts to the legislature by January 31, 2025**

(c) Not later than January 31, 2025, the commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations, energy and technology and human services on the results of the working group's study

Next Steps

- September meeting preliminary agenda
 - DSS would like to present at our next meeting to discuss the research we have done and information we have developed for possible implementation of a new pricing option for home heating oil vendors beginning in the 2026 program year
 - Other suggestions for our September meeting?
- For information and resources:
 - [DSS LIHEAP Working Group](#)

Proposed Meeting Schedule

- Meeting schedule:
 - 9/3/24, 3-4 P.M.
 - 10/7/24, 2-3 P.M.
 - 11/4/24. 2-3 P.M.
 - 12/2/24, 2-3 P.M.

Questions?

Adjourn
