

Rapid Response Data Briefing

LIHEAP

June 4, 2026



Speakers

Mark Wolfe, Executive Director, National Energy Assistance Directors Association

Meeta Anand, Senior Director of Census & Data Equity, The Leadership Conference Education Fund

Beth Jarosz, Vice President, Association of Public Data Users

Meghan Maury, former Senior Advisor for Data Policy, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

Denice Ross, former U.S. Chief Data Scientist and Director of Federal Data Policy, Federation of American Scientists (moderator)



What's in the LIHEAP report

What: Number and characteristics of households receiving home energy assistance.

- By income, age, disability status, owner/renter, type of assistance.
- In FY2023 optional reporting was added for sex, race, and ethnicity. In FY2024 that reporting became required.

Who: Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

Where: Nation, states

When: Quarterly and annual reporting from grant recipients (often states) to ACF. Annual report from ACF to Congress.

How: States collect data on program participation and report to ACF.

**Note: Some preliminary FY2023 and FY2024 data are available, but the FY2024 report to Congress has not been published.*

Why LIHEAP reporting is important - statute

42 U.S.C. 8629. Studies and reports

(a) The Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall provide for the collection of data, including—

- (1) information concerning home energy consumption;
- (2) the amount, cost and type of fuels used for households eligible for assistance under this subchapter;
- (3) the type of fuel used by various income groups;
- (4) the number and income levels of households assisted by this subchapter;
- (5) the number of households which received such assistance and include one or more individuals who are 60 years or older or disabled or include young children; and
- (6) any other information which the Secretary determines to be reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this subchapter.

Why LIHEAP reporting is important - statute and context

- Designed to assist low-income households in meeting their home energy needs
- Later amended the statute to prioritize households with the “the highest home energy costs or needs in relation to income” and “vulnerable populations, including older adults, individuals with disabilities, and families with young children”
- Research makes clear that these burdens are not distributed evenly across the population.
- When revising the collection of data to require collection of race and ethnicity information for program participants, the Department explained that demographic reporting would improve understanding of the populations served by LIHEAP and strengthen evaluation of whether assistance was reaching households with the greatest need

Why LIHEAP reporting is important - context

- LIHEAP report keeps Congress apprised of whether or not home energy assistance is reaching vulnerable populations.
 - Statute sets minimum requirements (income level, age, disability status), but other information is also relevant including owner/renter, race, ethnicity, and sex.
- It is important to understand who is served and who is not receiving critical resources.



Image: Katt Yukawa via unSplash

LIHEAP Data Checkup

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Historical Data Availability | Future Data Availability | Data Quality |
| No Known Issue | Moderate Risk While the May Federal Register notice would reinstate the collection, the ICR expired and was discontinued on March 23, 2026. Most recent annual report was sent to Congress in 2024. As of June 2026, data for FY 2023 were still identified as "preliminary pending final data validation." Race, ethnicity, and sex data collected in 2024 is not available in the data warehouse. | Moderate Risk The Federal Register Notice published on 4/9/26 proposed to "remove reporting requirements related to sex, race, and ethnicity, which are not required for statutory LIHEAP reporting or performance measurement" and "Remove data elements associated with supplemental LIHEAP funding provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and the American Rescue Plan Act, as these funding sources have expired and are no longer applicable to ongoing program operations." |
| Statutory Context | Staffing and Funding | Policy |
| No Known Issue 42 U.S.C. 8624, sec. 2610 requires LIHEAP data collection. The only demographics that are required to be collected are age and disability status. | Moderate Risk An April 2025 Senate report notes that "In the last three months, ACF's staffing footprint has been reduced by between 35 to 40 percent." OPM's federal workforce data shows a loss of more than 600 staff in FY2025 and FY2026. In addition, ACF is expected to have a substantial 11% reduction in budget between FY2027 and the levels enacted in FY2026. | High Risk The Federal Register Notice published on 4/9/26 proposed to "remove reporting requirements related to sex, race, and ethnicity, which are not required for statutory LIHEAP reporting or performance measurement." |

How you can support LIHEAP tinyurl.com/LIHEP-FRN

SUMMARY:

The Office of Community Services (OCS), Division of Energy Assistance, is requesting to reinstate the Annual Report on Households Assisted by the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) (LIHEAP Household Report; Office of Management and Budget (OMB) #: 0970-0060). The current OMB expiration date is March 31, 2026. Submission of the completed report is one requirement for LIHEAP grant recipients applying for federal LIHEAP block grant funds; the next report is due September 2026. OCS proposes changes to reduce the number of items requested and, therefore, related administrative and reporting burden.

OCS proposes revisions to reduce the administrative burden and length of form. The proposed revisions include the following:

- Remove reporting requirements related to sex, race, and ethnicity, which are not required for statutory LIHEAP reporting or performance measurement.
- Remove data elements associated with supplemental LIHEAP funding provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and the American Rescue Plan Act, as these funding sources have expired and are no longer applicable to ongoing program operations.

Take Action Monthly Office Hours – Friday 6/5 from 12-1pm



MONTHLY OFFICE HOURS

DROP IN, ASK QUESTIONS, AND GET
HELP CRAFTING EFFECTIVE PUBLIC
COMMENTS ON FEDERAL DATA



tinyurl.com/take-action-office-hours

For Early Warnings on Changes, Follow and Subscribe to dataindex.us

America's Data Index

Monitoring America's federal data infrastructure from dataset availability and new releases to planned and unplanned changes to collections.



To Keep Up to Date, Join the Federal Data Forum federaldataforum.prb.org

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Federal Data Forum. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'FDF Home', 'Discussion', 'Blogs', 'Events', and 'Member Directory'. A search bar and a 'Log in' button are also present. The main header area features a dark green background with the text 'FDF Home'. Below this, the 'Latest Discussions List' is displayed, including a dropdown menu set to 'Most Recent'. Two discussion entries are visible: one by Mark Mather about the September release of CPS ASEC, and another by James Jacobs about a new book on preserving government information. To the right, there are two sidebars: 'Community Quick Links' with links to 'Community FAQs' and 'Data Resources', and 'Community Events List' featuring two upcoming events: 'Rapid Response Data Briefing: American Time Use Survey' on July 9 and 'Association of Public Data Users' unConference 2025' on July 22.

FEDERAL DATA FORUM FDF Home Discussion Blogs Events Member Directory Log in

FDF Home

Latest Discussions List

Most Recent

MM **RE: September Release of CPS ASEC**
By: [Mark Mather](#), 23 hours ago
Posted in: [Federal Data Users](#)

Hi Flo, I'm hoping the Census Bureau will announce their release schedule for the 2024 income, poverty, and health insurance data in the next couple of weeks. Last year, this information was posted on July 16: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2024/schedule-income-poverty-acs.html> ...

JJ **new book "Preserving government information: past, ..."**
By: [James Jacobs](#), 23 hours ago

Community Quick Links

- ? Community FAQs
- Data Resources

Community Events List

- JUL 9** **Rapid Response Data Briefing: American Time Use Survey**
Online
- JUL 22** **Association of Public Data Users' unConference 2025**
Online



Take Action

Submit comments to infocollection@acf.hhs.gov by 6/8/26
(tinyurl.com/LIHEAP-FRN)

Check out dataindex.us

Check out federaldataforum.prb.org