

Low Income Energy Advisory Committee Purpose and Description

The Low Income Energy Advisory Committee was created as a statutory requirement related to the federal Weatherization Assistance Program block grant, federal law 10CFR Part 440. Section 440.17 stipulates that:

- (a) Prior to the expenditure of any grant funds, a State policy advisory council...must be established by a State...which:
 - (1) Has special qualifications and sensitivity with respect to solving the problems of low-income persons, including the weatherization and energy conservation problems of these persons;
 - (2) Is broadly representative of organizations and agencies, including consumer groups that represent low-income persons, particularly elderly and handicapped low-income persons and low-income Native Americans...; and
 - (3) Has responsibility for advising the appropriate official or agency administering the allocation of financial assistance in the state or area with respect to the development and implementation of a weatherization assistance program.

The annual Weatherization Plan that is submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy is presented for the committee's review and commentary each year in March or April.

In addition to the Weatherization Plan, LIEAC also reviews and offers advice regarding the annual Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Federal Block Grant Application. This grant funds the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program. This review typically occurs during the Committee's summer meeting.

Finally, at each meeting the Committee is presented with a review of the status of the Home Energy Plus Program and any related upcoming policy decisions. The Committee can propose and approve non-binding resolutions advising the Division of Energy Services on how to proceed with these matters.