



Energy & Housing Services Department Memorandum

To: Efficiency Maine Trust

From: Sarah Johnson, Manager of HEAP

Date: April 16, 2026

Subject: Proposed Changes to Home Energy Assistance Program Rule (Chapter 24) and State Model Plan for PY2027

The following highlights the major changes proposed for the PY2027 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). MaineHousing is submitting the plan to the Board for review and input in accordance with Efficiency Maine Trust's statute. The proposed changes are a result of the collaborative efforts of MaineHousing, Maine Community Action Agencies, and other stakeholders. There may be additional, non-substantive changes proposed to provide clarification.

MaineHousing is proposing the following changes to the Rule:

- Add clarifying language for documents evidencing U.S. Birth to reduce barriers for proving citizenship and/or identity. We are also proposing to update requirements for Qualified Alien documents to comply with current standards.
- Update the allowable time for a reversal for an application denied for missing information from 15 business days to at any time during the program year.
- Update countable income to include Long-Term Disability Payments and non-countable income to clarify that non-cash goods are not monetized as income.
- Update the Benefit Matrix to reference the most recent available data for Dwelling Type, County, and Fuel Source. The proposed Benefit Matrix will add points for additional at-risk household members and will increase the number of income ranges for the point multiplier.
- Add a life-time maximum benefit of \$10,000 per dwelling unit for CHIP services and to update the procurement requirements.
- Update the Energy Crisis Intervention Program benefit to be the greater of \$500 or 100 gallons plus fees for deliverable fuels. We are also proposing to allow a second propane delivery that will not exceed \$500 for propane customers.

MaineHousing will hold the public hearing for the proposed Rule at the May 19, 2026, meeting of the MaineHousing Board of Commissioners.