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MEMO

WX-2021-2

TO: Agency Directors and Weatherization Coordinators
FROM: Steve Divan, Weatherization Program Manager
RE: Allowance of air conditioning with LIHEAP WX funds
DATE: 10/1/2021

Greetings,

With the increase in summer temperatures Oregon has been experiencing, it has become apparent that air conditioning (AC) has become a necessary part of leaving our clients with a climate-change ready dwelling.

Currently, air conditioning systems are not an allowable expense unless the client is determined to be at risk. To be considered at risk, a client must have a signed and dated statement from their physician stating that either the clients' health will be jeopardized if they are exposed to extreme heat or that the clients' health is such that they cannot be exposed to outside pollutants without risk to their health. Moving forward, ECHO, BPA & DOE funds will continue to follow this policy.

Effective 10/1/21, LIHEAP WX funds may be utilized to provide **permanently installed** air conditioning systems as a H&S measure on any project. It is not necessary to have a cost-effective measure to install air conditioning utilizing LIHEAP WX funds. However, a full audit and weatherization must be completed if possible. If no weatherization is completed, the file must include documentation as to why.

Eligible housing:

- Electrically heated homes: As a heat pump provides both energy efficient heating & cooling, the first choice for an electrically heated home is to install a heat pump whether ducted or a DHP system. All grants may be utilized to install heat pumps in electrically heated homes as long as grant rules are followed. Air conditioning should only be considered when a heat pump is not an option.

- Gas heated homes: Permanently installed air conditioning systems, may be installed to work in conjunction with gas heat. If a heat pump is to be installed in a gas home, an approved fuel switch request will be required prior to installation.
- Wood, oil & other heat sources: When possible, a fuel switch should be requested to convert to a heat pump system. However, when a fuel switch is not warranted a permanently installed AC system may be installed.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (503) 986-0979.

Best regards,

Steve Divan
Weatherization Program Manager