



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Community Services
Submitted via email to: infocollection@acf.hhs.gov

June 2, 2026

Re: Comments from the National Energy Assistance Directors Association (NEADA) on the Proposed Information Collection Activity; Annual Report on Households Assisted by the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The National Energy Assistance Directors Association (NEADA), which represents state directors of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), appreciates the opportunity to provide the following comments for consideration by the Office of Community Services (OCS) in relation to the proposed changes to the LIHEAP Household Report (OMB #: 0970-0060).

NEADA applauds OCS for the removal of reporting requirements related to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). These data collection requests are no longer relevant, and their removal streamlines the report, making it easier for grantees to complete.

However, NEADA strongly opposes the proposed elimination of questions related to sex, race, and ethnicity. These data collection items were only added recently, having been phased in between Fiscal Years (FY) 2023 and 2024, and modified in FY 2025. For most of the program's 45-year history, OCS has not been able to report on the most basic information about LIHEAP recipients. This has limited the ability of Congress, OCS, and the public to understand which parts of the population the program serves. The recent addition of questions related to sex, race, and ethnicity was long overdue and was applauded by advocates, Members of Congress, and grantees.

The inclusion of these data is not related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. It is simpler than that. These data provide basic information about what populations are over- and under-served by the program. It also provides details on who in the household applies for the program, allowing for more targeted outreach to likely applicants.

In particular, NEADA rejects the removal of:

- Section VI. Number of Assisted Household Applicants by Race and Ethnicity
- Section VII. Number of Assisted Household Applicants by Sex
- Section VIII. Number of Assisted Household Members by Race and Ethnicity
- Section IX. Assisted Household Members by Sex

Additionally, we are calling on OCS to make public the data on sex, race and ethnicity of applicants and household members from FYs 2023-2025 on the LIHEAP Data Warehouse. Other data from the Household Report is publicly available on the LIHEAP Data Warehouse:

<https://liheappm.acf.gov/datawarehouse> and the omission of the newly-added demographic data limit the ability of stakeholders to make use of the information. Once these data are publicly available, the value of the continued collection of them for better understanding of how LIHEAP reaches American households will be made abundantly clear.

We thank you for your attention to these matters. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Wolfe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "W".

Mark Wolfe
Executive Director