



DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF WELFARE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES  
*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



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NEVADA STATE DIVISION OF WELFARE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES

Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

Date: August 20, 2021

Time: 10:00 AM

1. **Call to Order Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator:** August 20, 2021 @ 10:00 AM.

2. **Introduction/Purpose: Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator**

Robert Thompson: The Division of Welfare and Supportive Services has scheduled a Public Hearing to discuss the possible adoption of the proposed Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) State Plan, as indicated on the agenda.

This hearing is being conducted both in person (locations listed below) and virtually. This hearing was noticed in accordance with Nevada Open Meeting Law and posted at the locations listed on the agenda, as well as the Division's website and the State of Nevada Public Notices website.

- i. Welfare and Supportive Services, Professional Development Center, 701 N. Rancho Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- ii. Welfare and Supportive Services, Central Office, 1470 College Parkway, Carson City, Nevada.

3. **General Public Comment: Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator**

Mr. Robert Thompson explained that Item 2 on the agenda is for general public comment. No action may be taken upon a matter raised, until the matter has been specifically added to the agenda. Comments are limited to 3 minutes. I will ask that all callers/speakers please state and spell your name clearly for the record.

- i. No public comments presented in person, telephonically or virtually.

4. **For possible action Agenda Items 3A: Maria Wortman-Meshberger, Social Services Chief, Employment and Supportive Services**

Maria Wortman-Meshberger explained, The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provided funds to states to administer a new Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). The LIHWAP state plan delineate the program benefits, eligibility criteria, and other policies in the Water and Sewer Assistance Program (WSAP), administered by the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services. The LIHWAP State Plan has 15 Sections.

*Section 1: Program Needs, Goals and Allocations* describes the needs of the community, the WSAP goals and percentage of funding allocations for the LIHWAP funds, and some eligibility criteria.

*Section 2: Benefits* describes eligibility criteria, benefit amounts, and priority populations.

*Section 3: Outreach* describes the possible outreach efforts the Division will make to inform eligible households about the WSAP program.

*Section 4: Coordination* includes information on cross-program coordination.

*Section 5: Agency Designation* includes information about the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services being designated as the responsible agency for the program.

*Section 6: Water Suppliers* includes criteria for noticing households of their eligibility status for the program and assurances regarding the protections of eligible households against adverse treatment and receiving intended services.

*Section 7: Program, Fiscal Monitoring, and Audit* describing how the program will be monitored and any audit findings.

*Section 8: Public Participation* includes information regarding public input the Division received for the LIHWAP State Plan.

*Section 9: Fair Hearings* describes the fair hearing process for LIHWAP applicants.

*Section 10: Training* describes LIHWAP training for staff, partners, and vendors.

*Section 11: Performance Management* includes information on challenges the Division may foresee regarding federal reporting requirements and technical assistance the Division may need.

*Section 12: Program Integrity* describes eligibility criteria and fraud reporting.

*Section 13-15: Certifications* includes certifications regarding debarment, suspension and other responsibility matters, drug-free workplace requirements, and lobbying.

5. **Agenda Item 3B: Public Comment: Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator:**

Robert Thompson: Item 3B on the agenda is for public comment regarding the proposed Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program State Plan. No action may be taken upon a matter raised until the matter has been specifically added to the agenda. Comments are limited to 3 minutes. I will ask that all callers/speakers please state and spell your name clearly for the record.

- i. No public comments presented in person, telephonically or virtually.

6. **Agenda Item 3C: Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator**

Robert Thompson: I will adopt the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program State Plan, Agenda Item 3A, on behalf of the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, effective today August 20, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:05 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Karen Filippi, Executive Assistant, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services.