

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESPONSES TO COMMISSION RECORD REQUESTS
DE 21-133 LOW INCOME ELECTRIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Date request received: 8/11/22

Date of response: 8/29/22

Primary Respondent: Amanda Noonan

Record Request 1:

Please update the monthly enrollment figures for the EAP program since January 2022.

Response:

Attachment 1 provides updated monthly enrollment figures for the Electric Assistance Program (EAP) as well as the benefits paid each month. The enrollment data is based on the monthly EAP reconciliation reports submitted by the four utilities in the relevant Commission budget docket(s).

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESPONSES TO COMMISSION RECORD REQUESTS
DE 21-133 LOW INCOME ELECTRIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Date request received: 8/11/22

Date of response: 8/29/22

Primary Respondent: Amanda Noonan

Record Request 2:

What were the collections and expenditures on a monthly basis during the 2021-2022 EAP Program year?

Response:

Please see Attachment 2. Please note there is a separate tab for each utility showing the system benefits charge (SBC) revenue collected, benefits paid, and administrative costs. A summary tab consolidates all the revenue and expenses for the EAP to date for the program year beginning October 1, 2021.

The data for this spreadsheet is taken from the monthly reconciliation reports filed in Docket No. DE 21-133 by each utility. All utility reconciliation reports are filed in the docket to which the reports relate, that is the docket approving the relevant EAP program year budgets.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESPONSES TO COMMISSION RECORD REQUESTS
DE 21-133 LOW INCOME ELECTRIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Date request received: 8/11/22

Date of response: 8/29/22

Primary Respondent: Amanda Noonan

Record Request 3:

What is the current reserve balance in the EAP account?

Response:

The Commission established a reserve fund in Docket No. DE 02-034 via Order No. 24,036 to protect against increases in EAP benefits resulting from rate increases. The balance in the reserve fund is \$500,000. Each utility holds a portion of that fund.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESPONSES TO COMMISSION RECORD REQUESTS
DE 21-133 LOW INCOME ELECTRIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Date request received: 8/11/22

Date of response: 8/29/22

Primary Respondent: Amanda Noonan

Record Request 4:

When will a DOE audit of the 2021-2022 EAP program be available?

Response:

The Department of Energy anticipates that its audit of the 2021-2022 EAP program year will be complete by January 31, 2023.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESPONSES TO COMMISSION RECORD REQUESTS
DE 21-133 LOW INCOME ELECTRIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Date request received: 8/11/22

Date of response: 8/29/22

Primary Respondent: Amanda Noonan

Record Request 5:

Assuming the current EAP design remains in place and assuming enrollment levels equal to the 2021-2022 EAP program year please forecast the spenddown in the EAP account on a monthly basis through the coming 2022-2023 program year. Please explain all other assumptions in making these projections and feel free to use a range of assumptions if helpful.

Response:

Attachment 5A assumes projected system benefits charge (SBC) revenues for the 2022-2023 program year based on the sales forecasts¹ provided in the utility EAP budget filings in Docket No. DE 22-043 and projected benefits based on an average monthly EAP benefit of \$55. The monthly average EAP benefit has been increased and reflects the higher energy service rates that went into effect for Eversource and Liberty on August 1, 2022, as well as New Hampshire Electric Cooperative's increase to its energy service rate also effective on August 1, 2022. Further, the average monthly EAP benefit was calculated using Unitil's higher winter 2021-2022 default service rate rather than the current summer default service rate in anticipation of a higher default service rate for Unitil customers beginning December 1, 2022. Enrollment levels reflect the monthly enrollment during the 2021-2022 program year.

Attachment 5B assumes projected SBC revenues for the 2022-2023 program year based on 2021-2022 kWh sales², a higher monthly benefit based on the assumptions outlined in the paragraph above, and maintains the monthly enrollment levels from the 2021-2022 program year.

Both Attachment 5A and Attachment 5B assume monthly enrollment levels equal to those in the 2021 – 2022 program year, with the exception of August and September enrollments that reflect actual enrollment in August 2021 and September 2021.

¹ The sales forecasts for the 2022 – 2023 EAP program year reflect a slight decrease of 0.37% in kWh sales when compared to the forecasted sales for 2021 – 2022 EAP program year.

² Actual sales for the first ten months of the 2021 – 2022 EAP program year were consistent with the forecasted sales for the same time period and may serve as a better indicator of sales for the 2022 – 2023 EAP program year.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESPONSES TO COMMISSION RECORD REQUESTS
DE 21-133 LOW INCOME ELECTRIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Date request received: 8/11/22

Date of response: 8/29/22

Primary Respondent: Amanda Noonan

Record Request 6:

Please suggest the most efficient method for giving the Commission monthly updates on a going forward basis for questions 1, 2, and 3 above.

Response:

The monthly EAP reconciliation reports are filed with the Commission in the relevant EAP program year budget docket. The information provided in those reports forms the basis for the data provided in responses to record requests 1 and 2. The Commission's Record Request 3 asked about the EAP reserve. If the Commission's question was instead intended to ask about the balance in the EAP fund held by the State Treasurer, the running balance is provided on Attachment 2.

The Department has provided information responsive to Record Requests 1 through 3 in the native file formats. The Department respectfully suggests that the most efficient way for the Commission stay informed as to the status of EAP enrollments and EAP finances would be for the Commission to maintain the information in the provided spreadsheets itself. By doing so, the Commission would also have the ability to perform projections regarding the EAP.