

OREGON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Hearing Officer's Report to Agency on Rulemaking Hearing

Date (of report):	Wednesday, March 26, 2025
To:	OHCS
From:	David Kaufman, Energy Assistance Coordinator
Subject:	Hearing Officer's Report on Rulemaking Hearing
RAC Date:	N/A
Public Hearing Date:	Monday, February 24, 2025
Hearing Location:	Teams online platform
Rule Number:	813-200-0008, 813-201-0108,813-202-0007
Rule Title:	Manuals

The rulemaking hearing on the proposed rules was convened at 11:30 am. People were asked in live feed to provide their name, association, and indicate if they wished to comment on the proposed rules. They were informed of the procedures for taking comments. They also were told that the hearing was being recorded.

Before receiving comment, we briefly summarized the proposed rules.

List of Attendees:

Three (3) people attended. No (0) persons presented oral comments and no (0) submitted written comments.

Summary of Oral Comments (Short Version):

There were no oral comments provided.

Summary of Written Comments (Short Version):

There were no written comments provided.

The hearing was adjourned at 12:00 pm. The public comment period closed at 5:00 pm on Monday, March 3, 2025.

Consideration and Integration of Public Comments:

OHCS received no public comments to consider for integration/adoption into the proposed rules.

Appendices:

A – Transcript of public hearing

**IN THE STATE OF OREGON
PUBLIC HEARING**

In the Matter of the:

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP) Intake
Operations and Policy Manual for Program Year 2025

Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 813-200, 813-201, & 813-202

Transcript of Hearing Procedures

Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Time: 9:30 am to 10:00 am

Place: Microsoft Teams Meeting, hosted online
Oregon Housing & Community Services
725 Summer St NE, Suite B
Salem, OR 97301

Before: David Kaufman, Energy Assistance Program Coordinator & Hearing Officer
Joy Aldrich, Administrative Rules Coordinator representative

KAUFMAN David * HCS

Good morning, everybody. My name...actually, let me start from the beginning. This hearing is being recorded and transcribed, and it will be entered into the public record following this meeting. Today is Monday, February 24th, 2025, and the time is 11:30 AM.

My name is David Kaufman, and I will be serving as the Oregon Housing and Community Services Hearing Officer. The purpose of this public hearing is to take public comment on the Draft Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and the Oregon Energy Assistance Program Intake Operations and Policy Manual for Program Year 2025.

We'll begin the hearing with a roll call. As I call on you, please unmute yourself, state your name and the organization you represent, if any position, and indicate if you would like to present oral or written comment. Once the roll call is complete, we'll call each person wishing to present comment at that time. Please present your oral comments or summarize the written comments. Following this public hearing, please provide a copy of the written material to either myself or to the agency.

So, the purpose of this hearing is to take and consider public comment. No responses to the questions will be...will be made at this time, the agency will review issues raised during the public comment period and the Hearing Officer's report will contain responses. This will be attached to the public hearing transcript and maintained for rulemaking record. The public can submit written comment on the draft program manual until Monday, March 3rd, 2025, at 5:00 PM, which is the close of the of the public comment period for the rulemaking. Comments received after this time will not be reviewed or considered by the agency unless the agency extends the public hearing public comment period for everyone. A copy of the proposed rule changes referenced during this public hearing have been posted to our agency website. The public can request a copy of this document at any time.

Before we continue, any questions?

OK. So...on my screen I see Lacey. Can you introduce yourself please?

Lacey LaCosse

Hi there. I'm Lucy Lacoste. I'm from homes for good out of Lane County. I'm the Energy Services Administrative Specialist for the Weatherization Assistance Program.

KAUFMAN David * HCS

OK. Thank you. Let's see. Next is...Bobby.

Bobbie Fontyn

Hi, I'm Bobby Fontaine. I'm over here at Klamath Lake Community Action Services. I'm the Energy Assistant Coordinator and I do not have a public comment. Thank you.

KAUFMAN David * HCS

All right. Thank you. And then...I'm sorry...Annabelle?

HERNANDEZ-MEJIA Anabel * HCS

Hi Annabelle Hernandez-Mejia. I'm with Oregon Housing and Community Services, just listening in. Thanks.

KAUFMAN David * HCS

Oh, okay. And then Esteban.

Esteban Montero Chacon

Yes, thank you. I'm with Homes for Good as well. I'm the Energy Services Division Director and I'm also just listening in, no public comment.

KAUFMAN David * HCS

Okay. Thank you. And then Kaellen.

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HESSEL-OWENS Kaellen N * HCS

Hi, I also work with Oregon Housing and Community Services, just listening in.

KAUFMAN David * HCS

Okay. Thank you. All right, so, Lacy, neither you nor Bobby had any comments. Is that correct?

Lacey LaCosse

That's correct. Just listening in.

KAUFMAN David * HCS

Okay. And Bobby, you said no?

Bobbie Fontyn

No, I do not have one. Thank you.

KAUFMAN David * HCS

Okay. And Annabelle and Kelly, I know you don't. So...I think since we have no comments, what we'll do is we'll continue recording, correct Joy? But we'll go on mute until we have someone else join, if and when someone else joins.

ALDRICH Joy * HCS

Yep, and we can just sit here. We're welcome to go off camera if you'd like, and the public hearing will be open until Noon.

KAUFMAN David * HCS

Thank you. Okay, we're ready to wrap it up. Okay. I'd like to thank everyone for taking time to attend this public hearing. As mentioned before, anyone can submit public comment regarding a proposed rulemaking until Monday, March 3rd at 5:00 PM. The time is now 12 Noon, and this will conclude our public hearing for the draft LIHEAP and OEAP Program Operations and Policy Manual for Program 2025. The recording will now stop.