

ATTACHMENT A: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND STAFF RESPONSE

The Department accepted public comment from April 25, 2025, through May 21, 2025, and conducted four public hearings between May 13 and May 15, 2025, in Austin, Fort Worth, Houston and Odessa. Comment was received from Amanda Shelton, Executive Director of the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies (TACAA). The comment summary and the Department's response is presented in the table below.

Commenter	Comment Summary	Staff Response	Proposed Changes to the Plan
TACAA	Commenter recommends the Department retain pressure testing for propane gas tanks as an allowable activity for utility assistance in Sections 2.7, 3.7 and 4.13. Commenter points out that it was allowed in the 2025 LIHEAP Plan and prior versions, but was removed in the 2026 Plan. The basis for this recommendation is that propane companies will only fill a propane tank if the propane level is below a certain threshold due to health and safety regulations. It becomes a liability for propane companies if they do not test the tank pressure prior to filling. Clients would experience delays in utility assistance because the CEAP service provider would have to wait for the client to afford and pay for their own pressure testing prior to approving propane tank refills.	The removal of tank pressure testing from the benefits listed in Sections 2.7, 3.7 and 4.13 was not meant to eliminate it as a benefit. The Department will add tank pressure testing back into the Plan as well as a list of in-kind benefits listed in 10 TAC §6.310 Crisis Assistance Component. The Department appreciates the comment.	Include tank pressure testing as a benefit in Sections 2.7, 3.7 and 4.13 of the Plan.