

ATTACHMENT A: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND STAFF RESPONSE

The Department accepted public comment from April 24, 2026, through May 15, 2026, and conducted four public hearings May 12-14, 2026, in Houston, Fort Worth, Odessa and Austin. Comment was received from three individuals representing three organizations. Comments and responses are presented in the following table. Note that public comment numbers are assigned and used to identify commenters.

#	Commenter	Organization
1	Glynniece Herron, CEAP Program Director	BakerRipley
2	Daniel Araiza, WAP Program Manager	Dallas County Health & Human Services
3	Michelle Doonkeen, Assistant Director CEAP/CSBG	City of Fort Worth

Commenter	Comment Summary	Staff Response	Proposed Changes to the Plan
#1	<p><u>CEAP Benefit Levels in Sections 2.6 Heating, 3.6 Cooling, 4.7 Crisis, and Attachment 3 Benefits Matrix.</u></p> <p>Commenter expresses concern over the benefit levels and asks that they be increased from their current level at \$1200/\$1500/\$1800 to \$1600/\$1900/\$2200.</p>	<p>The Department appreciates the comment. At this time, the Department does not intend to increase the CEAP benefit levels. Because the amount of LIHEAP funding for Texas cannot meet the demand or need, the Department must balance the two (i.e., funding amount and need). Increasing benefit levels will serve less households, while decreasing benefit levels will serve more households. The Department recognizes that energy costs in Texas have increased over the last several years, which also increases the number of those in need and those applying for utility assistance. The Department decreased the benefit levels in January 2025 due to a decrease in additional federal funding for LIHEAP after the COVID pandemic.</p>	No change.

<p>#2</p>	<p><u>Section 5 Weatherization Assistance.</u> Commenter requests that the Department consider an increase to the Health and Safety budget in the LIHEAP Plan due to a rise in the cost of construction materials and labor which increases the average cost of health and safety repairs per unit. These rising costs have forced the Dallas County Weatherization Assistance Program to scale back on the installation and repair of essential health and safety measures (e.g., emergency heating and cooling replacements, gas line, hording remediation, ventilation, and electrical safety repairs) that are necessary to protect the occupants of the unit.</p>	<p>The Department appreciates the comment. Health and safety costs are not addressed in the LIHEAP Plan but are addressed in the DOE Plan which has already been out for public comment; however, the Department did provide data in the DOE WAP Plan which can justify an increase to the total average health and safety cost per unit. The Department believes it has data to support an increase and will work with DOE in the coming months to increase the allowable total average health and safety cost per unit. If DOE approves the increase, then this increase will be reflected in the DOE WAP Plan.</p>	<p>No change.</p>
<p>#3</p>	<p><u>CEAP Benefit Levels in Sections 2.6 Heating, 3.6 Cooling, 4.7 Crisis, and Attachment 3 Benefits Matrix.</u> Commenter asked whether any economic analysis goes into the Department’s determination of the CEAP maximum benefit levels and whether current market conditions are considered.</p>	<p>The Department appreciates the question. In its consideration of benefit levels, the Department uses information and data provided by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) which shows the annual statewide residential average retail price of electricity; however, this is not the sole factor in determining CEAP benefit levels. Other important factors in determining benefit levels include, but is not limited to, the amount of funding available for the program, the amount of need, and how benefit levels may affect CEAP subrecipients’ ability to expend funds in a timely manner.</p>	<p>No change.</p>