

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: January 6, 2009

Date Submitted: December 12, 2008

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Benjamin H. Pingree, County Administrator
Lindsay Stevens, Assistant County Administrator
Alfred Nelson, Housing Director
Annie Brown, LIHEAP Coordinator

Subject: Request Board Approval of a Resolution to Accept the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) FY 2009-2010 Contract and Funding Agreement for \$157,474.00 and Authorize the Chairman to Execute the Contract

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item requests Board approval of a Resolution to accept the contract and funding Agreement for \$157,474.00 from the State of Florida, Department Community Affairs, and U.S. Department of Energy for the Program-Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Background:

LIHEAP is a federally funded block grant program that is implemented at the State, Tribal, and Insular Area levels by the United States Department of Energy. The program grantees services for low income households who seek assistance for their home energy bills. LIHEAP has been operating since 1982 and its purpose is to assist low-income households, particularly those with the lowest incomes, which pay a high proportion of their household income for home energy, and meet their immediate home energy needs.

The program encourages priority be given to those with the "highest home energy needs", meaning low income households with a high energy burden and low income households with the presence of a "vulnerable" individual, such as a young child, disabled person, or frail older individual.

The Wakulla County LIHEAP assisted 362 Households with Energy Assistance, 7 Weather-Related households, 98 households with Summer Crisis Assistance, 119 households with Summer Home Energy Assistance, 75 households with Winter Crisis Assistance, and 63 households with Winter Home Energy Assistance during FY2007-08.

Analysis:

This agenda item seeks Board approval of \$157,474.00 in funding for the 2009-2010 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to serve an estimated 1448 low income households with energy bills and energy crisis needs through March 31, 2010. This LIHEAP contract is twice the amount in funding compared to previous years contracts. The additional funding will

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allow Wakulla County to provide more of its citizens with much needed home energy assistance during these difficult economic times.

This Contract will be entered into by and between the State of Florida, Department of Community Affairs (DCA), and the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners, to accept the DCA contract number 09EA-7K-02-75-01-032, which governs the LIHEAP, and will provide a total funding allocation for FY2009-2010 of \$157,474.00.

Options:

1. Approve the Resolution accepting the Contract and Funds of \$157,474.00 for the Base Allocation of the FY2009-2010 Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and authorize the Chairman to execute.
2. Do not approve the Resolution accepting the Contract and Funds of \$157,474.00 for the Base Allocation of the FY2009-2010 Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and do not authorize the Chairman to execute.
3. Board Direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1

Attachment(s):

1. Resolution
2. Budget Amendment
3. Contract Agreement and the Department of Community Affairs Contract Agreement Letter