



FEDERAL PROGRAMS APPROVED FOR CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY FOR DOE HOME ENERGY REBATES (“RECOGNIZED PROGRAMS”)

VERSION 1.1

Published on October 13, 2023

Modification Note: This document, Version 1.1, modifies the document published on July 27, 2023, including the tables, to provide greater clarity on automatic eligibility for recognized programs.

Home Efficiency Rebates (Section 50121)

Households enrolled in any of the programs listed below are **automatically** eligible to receive (unless otherwise noted) the higher level of rebates available to households with incomes less than 80% Area Median Income under Section 50121 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022. The participants of these programs are eligible because those programs require an income level that is equivalent to or less than the income requirements for the home efficiency rebates established by the statute. The following tables include recognized programs that apply to both single and multifamily buildings. See Appendix A for a list of the income requirements for each program that determined whether those program participants were automatically eligible for the higher home efficiency rebate amounts.

Table 1. Recognized Programs for Categorical Eligibility of Home Efficiency Rebates

Recognized Program	Eligible for Higher Level of Home Efficiency Rebates
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	X
Medicaid	X
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	X
Head Start	X
Lifeline Support for Affordable Communications (Lifeline)	X

Recognized Program	Eligible for Higher Level of Home Efficiency Rebates
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)	X
National School Lunch Program - Free (NSLP)	X
Housing Improvement Program (HIP)	X
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	X
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	X
Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)	Automatically eligible ONLY if household is located in an area where 80% AMI (Area Median Income) is greater than 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
WIC	Automatically eligible ONLY if household is located in an area where 80% AMI is greater than 185% FPL.
Other (programs approved by DOE through State application process)	States may propose other income-verified programs for categorical eligibility in their applications. DOE will approve if those income criteria meet the Home Energy Rebates income criteria set forth in the Inflation Reduction Act.

Table 2 indicates the Federally recognized housing programs that provide households with rental assistance and/or owners/developers with Low Income Housing Tax Credits and that qualify for categorical eligibility for home efficiency rebates. Please note that this is not tax advice and refer to guidance issued by the IRS for detailed information on the rules associated with tax credits.

Table 2. Recognized Housing Programs for Categorical Eligibility of Home Efficiency Rebates

Recognized Program	Level of Categorical Eligibility for Rebates for Renters Receiving Housing Assistance	Whole Building Eligibility for Rebates
Public Housing (housing owned and operated by Public Housing Authorities)	Below 80% AMI	Single- and multi-family buildings owned and operated by Public Housing Authorities are fully eligible.
Privately owned multifamily buildings receiving project-based assistance (Section 8, Section 202, Section 811)	Below 80% AMI	If at least 50% of housing units are subsidized through these programs, then the multifamily building is fully eligible.
Privately-owned multifamily buildings that house residents receiving tenant-based assistance	Below 80% AMI	If at least 50% of building occupants receive tenant-based assistance, then the multifamily building is fully eligible.
Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)	Below 80% AMI	If at least 50% of housing units are income-restricted, then the multifamily building is fully eligible.

Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (Section 50122)

Households enrolled in any of the programs listed below are **automatically** eligible to receive (unless otherwise noted) the higher level of rebates available to households with incomes less than 80% AMI under Section 50122 of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. The participants of these programs are eligible because those programs require an income level that is equivalent to or less than the income requirements for the home electrification and appliance rebates established by the statute. The following tables include recognized programs that apply to both single and multifamily buildings. See Appendix A for a list of the income requirements for each program that determined whether those program participants were automatically eligible for the higher home electrification and appliance rebate amounts.

Table 3. Recognized Programs for Categorical Eligibility of Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates

Recognized Program	Eligible for Higher Level of Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	X
Medicaid	X
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	X
Head Start	X
Lifeline Support for Affordable Communications (Lifeline)	X
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)	X
National School Lunch Program – Free (NSLP)	X
Housing Improvement Program (HIP)	X
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	X
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	X
Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)	Automatically eligible for higher rebate amount ONLY if household is located in an area where 80% AMI is greater than 200% FPL. If 80% AMI < 200% FPL, household is automatically eligible for lower rebate amount.
WIC	Automatically eligible for higher rebate amount ONLY if household is located in an area where 80% AMI is greater than 185% FPL. If 80% AMI < 185% FPL, household is automatically eligible for lower rebate amount.
Verified government or non-profit program serving Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) persons or households	Automatically eligible ONLY for lower rebate amount.

Recognized Program	Eligible for Higher Level of Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates
Other (programs approved by DOE through State application process)	States may propose other income-verified programs for categorical eligibility in their applications. DOE will approve if those income criteria meet the Home Energy Rebates income criteria set forth in the Inflation Reduction Act.

Table 4 indicates the Federally recognized housing programs that provide households with rental assistance and/or owners/developers with Low Income Housing Tax Credits and that qualify for categorical eligibility for home electrification and appliance rebates. Please note that this is not tax advice and refer to guidance issued by the IRS for detailed information on the rules associated with tax credits.

Table 4. Recognized Housing Programs for Categorical Eligibility of Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates

Recognized Program	Level of Categorical Eligibility for Rebates for Renters Receiving Housing Assistance	Whole Building Eligibility for Rebates
Public Housing (housing owned and operated by Public Housing Authorities)	Below 80% AMI	Single- and multi-family buildings owned and operated by Public Housing Authorities are fully eligible
Privately owned multifamily buildings receiving project-based assistance (Section 8, Section 202, Section 811)	Below 80% AMI	If at least 50% of housing units are subsidized through these programs, then the multifamily building is fully eligible.
Privately-owned multifamily buildings that house residents receiving tenant-based assistance	Below 80% AMI	If at least 50% of building occupants receive tenant-based assistance, then the multifamily building is fully eligible.
Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)	Below 80% AMI	If at least 50% of housing units are income-restricted, then the multifamily building is fully eligible.

Appendix A

Income requirements for each program that determined whether those program participants were automatically eligible for the higher Home Energy Rebate amounts:

Recognized Program	Program-Specific Income Requirements
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	Income cannot exceed 60% State Median Income (SMI) or 150% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
Medicaid	In most states, income cannot exceed 138% FPL
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	Gross income cannot exceed 130% FPL
Head Start	Household income below 100% FPL
Lifeline Support for Affordable Communications (Lifeline)	<135% FPL
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)	<130% FPL
National School Lunch Program - Free (NSLP)	<130% FPL
Housing Improvement Program (HIP)	<150% FPL
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	<80% AMI
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	Limited resources and limited income (details)
Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)	<200% FPL
WIC	<185% FPL
Verified government or non-profit program serving Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) persons or households	Above FPL, less than basic cost of living (ALICE methodology)
Public Housing (housing owned and operated by Public Housing Authorities)	<50% AMI
Privately owned multifamily buildings receiving project-based assistance (Section 8, Section 202, Section 811)	<50% AMI
Privately-owned multifamily buildings that house residents receiving tenant-based assistance	<50% AMI

Recognized Program	Program-Specific Income Requirements
Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)	At least 50% of households are below 80% AMI