



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

January 27, 2014

The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Representative Sablan:

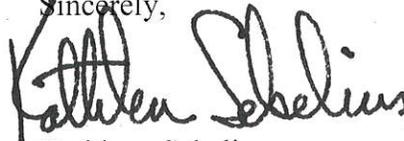
Thank you for your interest in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and your request for a review of the LIHEAP funding allocation to the territories. As you know, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has been working for some time to quantify the need for LIHEAP funding to the territories, and I appreciate your patience during this period.

I am pleased to confirm the information my staff has already communicated informally to your office. Beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2014, HHS will increase funding to the territories from 0.135 percent of total formula funding to 0.5 percent, the maximum amount allowed by the LIHEAP statute. Although LIHEAP has received its FY 2014 appropriation, final state and territorial funding amounts are not yet available. In total, the territories will receive approximately \$17 million in FY 2014, compared to \$4.4 million in FY 2013. My staff will be in touch with you once territorial funding allocations are finalized.

All territories with a complete FY 2014 LIHEAP plan received their initial funding for FY 2014 via a grant award letter. This award represents approximately 90 percent of the amount of their full year funding allocation from FY 2013. The difference between the amount the territories received initially and final funding will be distributed in the next few weeks. HHS staff have already alerted LIHEAP administrators in each of the territories to the change in funding.

Thank you again for raising this important issue and for the kind note of appreciation you sent me recently. Please contact me if you have any further questions. I am sending a similar letter to the other members of Congress representing territories.

Sincerely,


Kathleen Sebelius

FEB 05 2014