

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department: Social Services

HB Section(s): 11.195

Program Name: Energy Assistance

Program is found in the following core budget(s): Energy Assistance

1a. What strategic priority does this program address?

Provide effective services to Missourians.

1b. What does this program do?

The Department of Social Services (DSS) determines eligibility to help low-income Missourians with the cost to heat or cool their homes by targeting elderly, disabled, and young child households to prevent the loss of heating and/or cooling services.

Missouri's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a block grant program. The objectives of LIHEAP are to help low-income people with the costs of home energy, defined as heating and cooling of residences; to increase their energy self-sufficiency; and to reduce their vulnerability resulting from energy needs. The target population is low-income households, especially those with the lowest incomes and the highest home energy costs or needs. Additional factors taken into account for low-income households include family size, elderly, and disabled.

This federal funding for low-income Missourians includes three components: Energy Assistance (EA), Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) and Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program (LIWAP). The appropriation authority for LIWAP funds is with the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Energy.

In CY 2021, changes were made to the eligibility criteria, program timelines, and crisis definition/verification requirements for the EA and/or ECIP programs to utilize additional funding available.

Energy Assistance (EA)

- Provides one-time financial assistance per year to Missouri households to help pay their heating and/or cooling bills year round
- The benefit amount is based upon household size, income and the type of fuel used for home heating or cooling.
- DSS contracts with the Missouri Community Action Agencies and other not-for-profit organizations to determine eligibility and process applications
- Application information, as well as documentation, is entered into the state EA data system that is web-based and secure for eligibility determination and payment processing
- Payments are made by the DSS directly to energy suppliers and, in a small number of cases, to eligible clients

Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP)

- Provides financial assistance to households in an energy crisis
- Funding is distributed to the LIHEAP contract agencies through a formula to make payments directly to the energy supplier
- Agencies can also request in the agency yearly plan a portion of the ECIP funding to help purchase or repair furnaces or air conditioners, to pay for emergency or temporary shelter, to provide limited emergency services, and to provide education and outreach

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

In FY 2022, federal stimulus appropriation and/or authority was also granted through the Energy Assistance core appropriations for LIHWAP to assist low-income households, particularly those with the lowest incomes by providing funds to owners or operators of public water systems or treatment works to reduce arrearages of and rates charged to such households for such services.

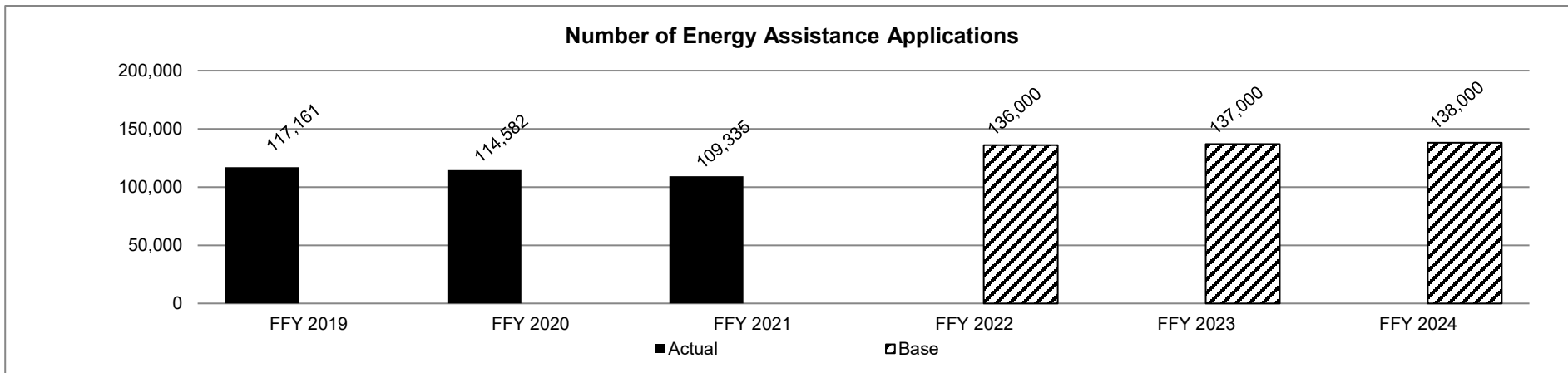
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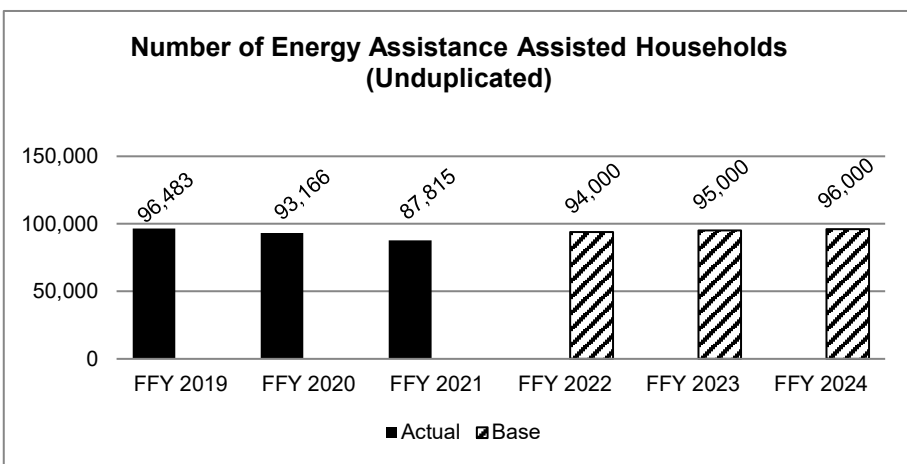
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2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.

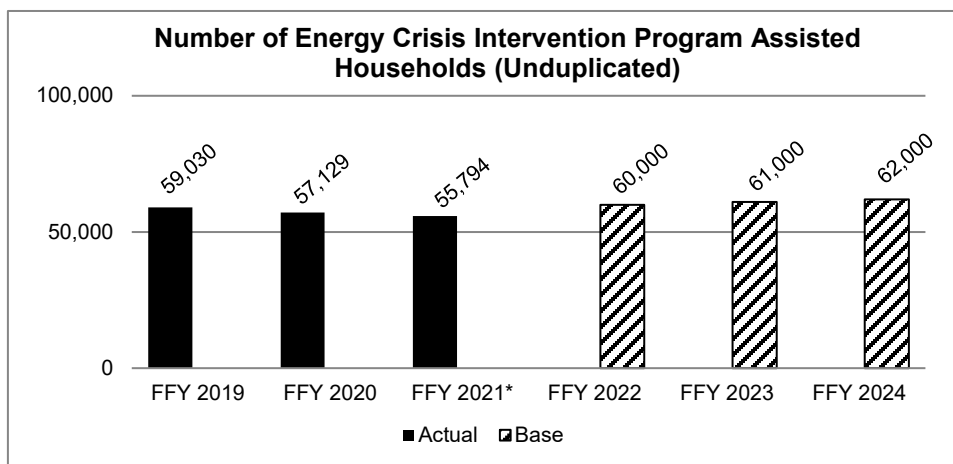


DSS is still working to verify data for FFY 2022.

2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.



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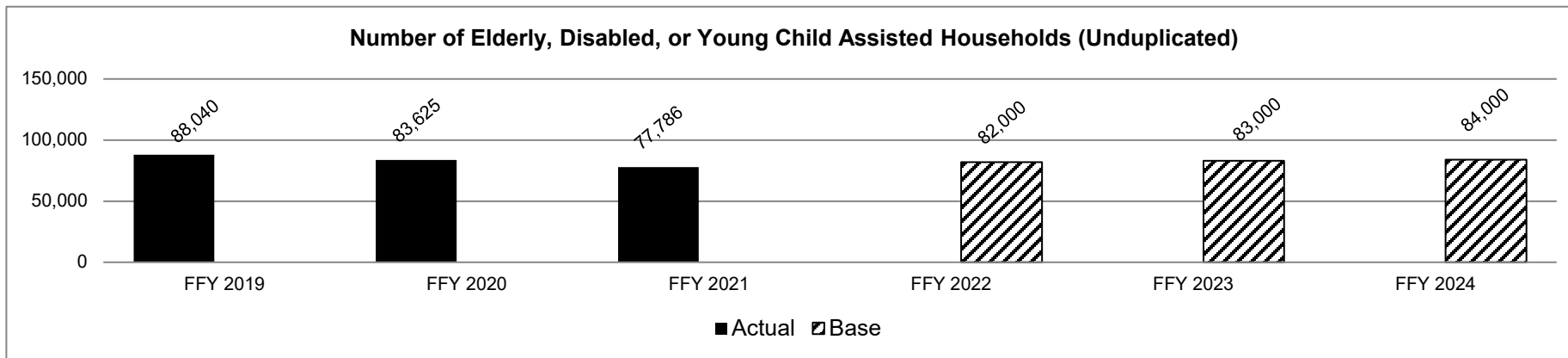
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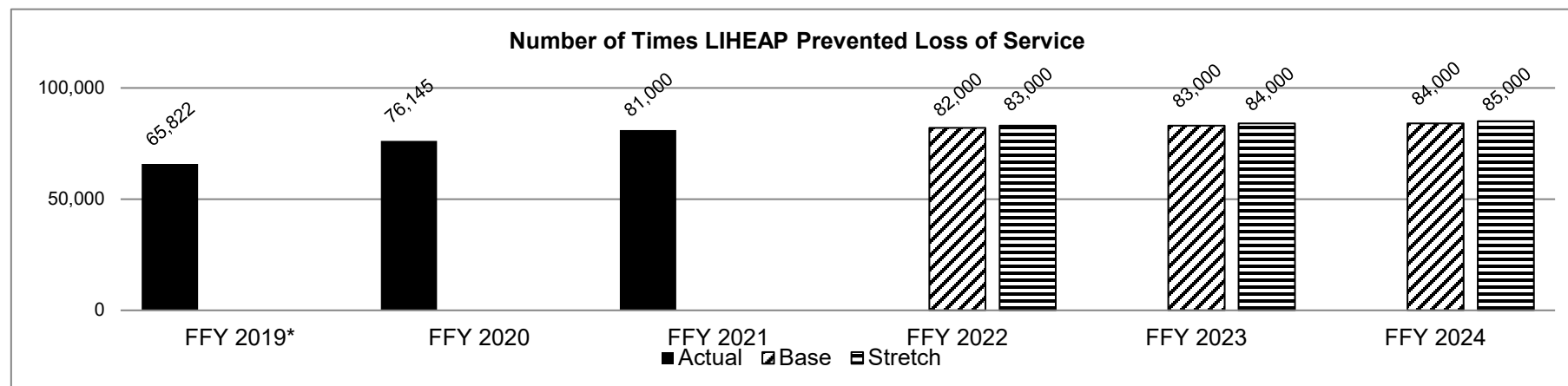
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2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.



DSS is still working to verify data for FFY 2022.



* In FFY 2019, an improved verification and validation process was implemented resulting in the lower number reported and lower projections going forward. DSS is still working to verify data for FFY 2022.

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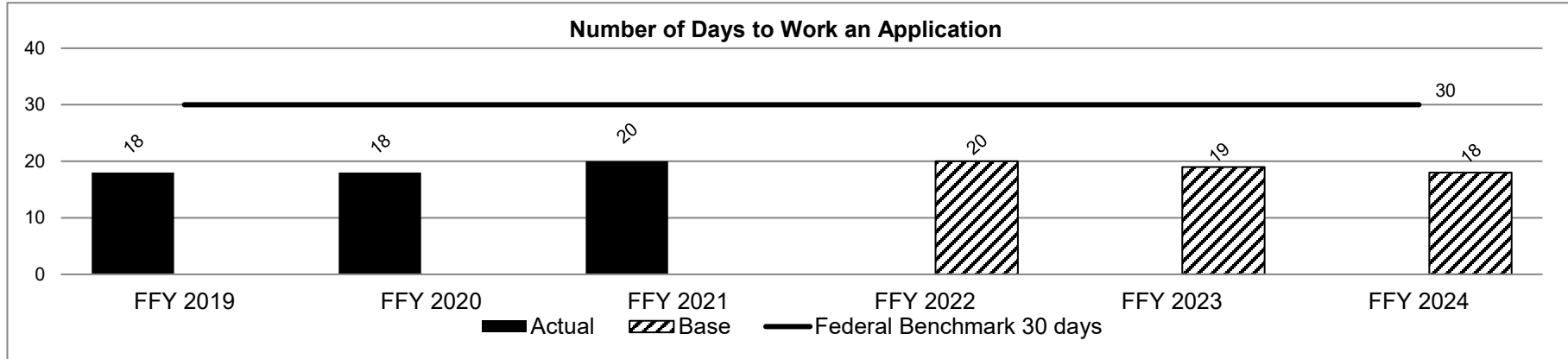
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2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.



Projections reflect an expected increase in the number of days to work an application due to an increase in applications resulting from additional funding and an increased need for services as a result of COVID-19. DSS is still working to verify data for FFY 2022.

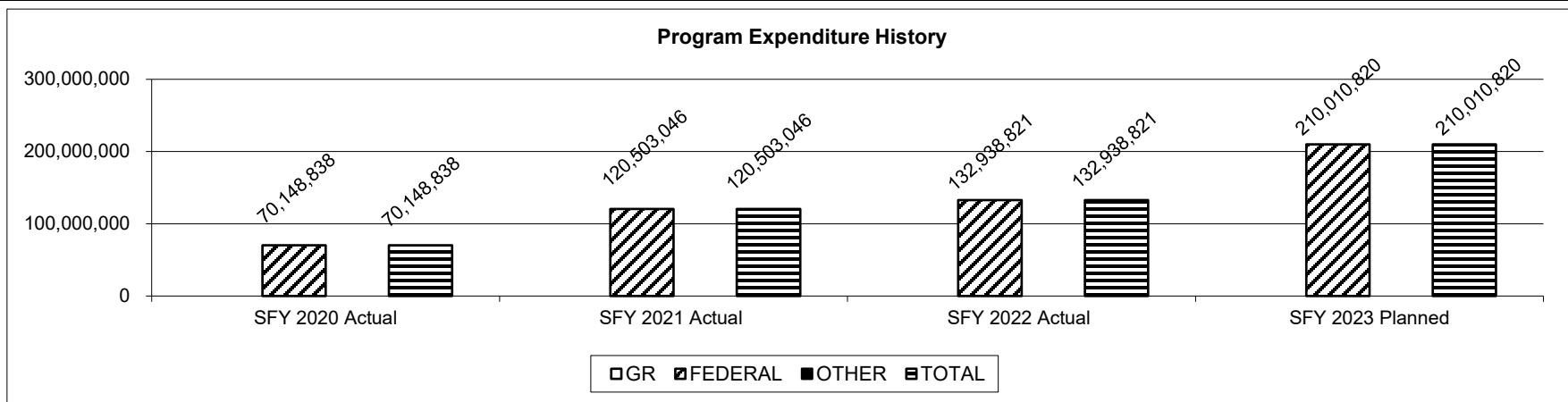
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3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)



SFY 2023 Planned expenditures are net of reverted.

4. What are the sources of the "Other " funds?

N/A

5. What is the authorization for this program, i.e., federal or state statute, etc.? (Include the federal program number, if applicable.)

State Statute: Sections 660.100 - 660.136, RSMo.; Federal law: 42 USC 8621 - 8630 et seq.; Public Law 116-136, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

6. Are there federal matching requirements? If yes, please explain.

No.

7. Is this a federally mandated program? If yes, please explain.

No.