

Operations Memorandum - LIHEAP OPS120201

February 2, 2012

SUBJECT: Processing Utility Termination Notices
TO: Executive Directors/LIHEAP Coordinators
FROM: Richard Wallace, Acting Director, Bureau of Operations

Purpose

To advise County Assistance Offices (CAOs) that, effective February 1, 2012, they may begin processing crisis payments for customers of regulated utilities that are issued valid termination notices dated February 1, 2012 or later.

Background/Discussion

CAOs are instructed to authorize crisis payments for applicants who have received a utility termination notice with a notice mail date of February 1, 2012 or later. Crisis payments may not exceed \$300 for the program year and cannot be issued for less than \$25. If a household has received crisis assistance earlier in the program year, the amount of the prior benefit, in combination with payment for a valid termination notice, may not exceed \$300. For example, if a household received a crisis benefit of \$200 for the reconnection of utility service in November 2011, that household may be approved for up to \$100 in additional crisis assistance.

No crisis benefit may be issued to a utility vendor without confirmation from the vendor that the crisis payment will resolve the crisis situation. Once the utility agrees to accept the crisis grant, they must maintain utility service until May 1, 2012. Be sure to check to see if this household received a cash grant. Both the cash and crisis grants can be used to resolve the emergency situation.

Once a crisis benefit is authorized based on a termination notice, a second crisis benefit may not be authorized for the same utility company. If a termination notice is received from a different utility company, a second crisis benefit may be authorized for that utility company if the remaining crisis amount will resolve the crisis situation

NEXT STEPS

1. Implement the policy and procedures in this Operations Memorandum for the 2011-12 LIHEAP program.
2. Upon receipt of this Operations Memorandum, inform the LIHEAP crisis contractors about the changes to the LIHEAP crisis components.