

Policy Clarifications - LIHEAP - Crisis PLR16986605

Submitted: 1/14/2014

Agency: CAOs

Subject: Restricted Use of a Non-regulated Utility

Question: Is the client eligible for LIHEAP Crisis in the following situation?

Some utilities are not governed by the Public Utilities Commission, and when a customer's bills are past due, they restrict use on an account rather than terminating the account. The utility will set a certain number of amps as the maximum usage for the household. This amount is enough to run the furnace at a low setting. If the customer goes over the limit of amps, their breaker is tripped and they must go outside to reset it. Does this constitute a crisis?

Response By: Division of Federal Programs/LIHEAP

Date: 01/23/2014

No. The restriction as described does not meet crisis eligibility as described in the LIHEAP State Plan section 601.32(2).