

Policy Clarifications - LIHEAP - All PLA16968605

Submitted: 12/31/13

Agency: CAOs

Subject: Responsibility for Heating Costs/LIHEAP Eligibility

Question: Is the client eligible for LIHEAP in the following situations?

1. Client rents but landlord wants the fuel bill in his name due to tenant turnover. Tenant is required to pay the fuel bill plus rent to the landlord.
2. Client rents but fuel bill is in landlord's name because the client has bad credit and cannot get the account in their name. Tenant is required to pay for fuel bill plus rent to the landlord.
3. Same as #2 but client is required to pay fuel vendor directly. (Bill is in landlord's name)
4. Client is separated from husband. Fuel bill is in husband's name as he is the owner of the property. He requires that the client pay the fuel bill.
5. Bill is in deceased spouse's name.

Response By: DFPPM/LIHEAP

Date: 12/31/13

All applicants would be eligible for LIHEAP, providing they meet all other eligibility criteria. The applicants in the first four scenarios do not have direct relationships with their vendors since the bill is in the name of another person that is not in the household, therefore, the CAO should issue the LIHEAP payment as a direct pay. In the situation where the bill remains in the name of the deceased spouse, payment should be sent directly to the vendor as the household is considered to have a relationship with the vendor since the bill was paid by someone living within the household.

The CAO should use a living arrangement code of "Renting with heat not included" in the first four situations described above. In the situation where the bill is in the name of a deceased spouse, the living arrangement code would be either "Owner" or "Renting with heat not included", depending on the actual circumstances. The applicant should provide either a copy of their lease; a written, signed statement from the landlord detailing the heating arrangement with the client; or collateral contact with the landlord that verifies the heating arrangement the landlord has with the household.

Note: With this release, PLA14631605 becomes obsolete.

