**Policy Clarification - LIHEAP - All
PLA8656710**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Submitted:  9/23/99 | Agency: Staff Development Allegheny |
| Tr. No. | Citations: LIHEAP  |

Subject: Exclude Foster Care Payment

Is a foster child considered a household member for LIHEAP? Is the income received for providing foster care counted as income to the LIHEAP household?

We have based our past decision to count the child as a household member AND count the foster care payment as household income on the LIHEAP training syllabus for new Energy Assistance Workers issued 9/19/83, which specifically addressed this issue. We currently feel the payments should not be counted because they are not used to determine cash eligibility and the foster child does not have to be a FS HH member. What is the correct handling of foster care payments and foster children in the household when processing a LIHEAP application?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Response By: C. Good | 11/4/99 |

Neither the LIHEAP State Plan nor the Federal statute address income from this source. In the past LIHEAP has followed suit with TANF decisions regarding various issues to maintain consistency. Therefore, we recommend that for the LIHEAP application, the foster care payment be treated as it is being treated for TANF. In other words, the foster care payment should not be counted when determining cash eligibility and the foster child does not have to be counted as a mandatory household member for food stamps.