

Operations Memorandum - SNAP OPS100904

September 10, 2010

SUBJECT: Heat and Eat Initiative
TO: Executive Directors
FROM: Joanne Glover, Director, Bureau of Operations

Purpose

To inform County Assistance Offices (CAOs) about the Heat and Eat Initiative, which is effective September 11, 2010.

Background/Discussion

Heat and Eat is an initiative that confers the heating shelter utility allowance (SUA) to eligible households currently receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. On September 10, 2010, eligible households will be enrolled in the Heat and Eat Initiative. A future Ops Memo will be posted regarding ongoing Heat and Eat.

Households **not** enrolled in Heat and Eat Initiative:

- Households open for SNAP benefits after September 11, 2010;
- Households currently receiving LIHEAP;
- PA CAP households;
- Households receiving nursing home care;
- Households who are homeless (Program Status Code FS41 or FS42);
- Households receiving extended SNAP benefits (Program Status Code FS43);
- Households with a facility code **other than** 17, 18, 19, and 39. (Those with facility codes 17, 18, 19 and 39 are eligible for Heat and Eat).

Households enrolled in this initiative will show a "Y" in the LIHEAP field on the shelter screen (CASHEL). To ensure that the "Y" beside the LIHEAP field is correct, another indicator will be placed above the heating and cooling questions to indicate to the worker that the household was part of the Heat and Eat Initiative.

Being enrolled in Heat and Eat allows households and all household members to receive the heating SUA until September 30, 2011.

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UASHEL                CIS SHELTER & UTILITY COSTS ACTION                08/09/10 15:21:04
Operator:              Worker: 08004    Page: 01
Co Record D          Mode           Case Name           Cld
22 7866091 0    IMCW MAINT          SNAP CLIENT         4505

Income Month                Other PA Inc Amt
09/2010                      $ 0.00

Mth Bill Amt V
Lot/Rent/Mortgage 0.00 - Homeless Shel Allowance? N $ 0.00
Taxes 0.00 -
Insurance 0.00 -

===== Totals =====
Telephone - Shel Costs
Electric - Std Type H
Gas - Act S/U Std S/U 0524.00
Oil -
Water -
Sewerage -
Garbage/Trash -
Util Install -
Other -

Heat & Eat Issued: Y
Responsible for Heat/Cooling? N
Heat/Cooling Billed Sep N
Receives LIHEAP? N Override? N
Non-Phone Utility Costs? N

Next Trans: Parameters: Xmit: -
*MSG3*: 3276 LIHEAP Indicator cannot be "N" for FS Heat & Eat
  
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Note: The LIHEAP indicator of “Y” cannot be changed to “N” if the household received Heat and Eat.

Example: A household is open for SNAP benefits as of September 5, 2010. The household pays rent, electric, and telephone. The household is entitled to the limited SUA because they did not receive a LIHEAP payment in the current season. As of September 11, 2010, the household is automatically enrolled in the Heat and Eat Initiative. The household’s limited SUA will now change to the heating SUA. The CASHEL screen is updated to show a “Y” in the LIHEAP field and a “Y” indicating they are part of the Heat and Eat Initiative. The household is now entitled to the heating SUA until September 30, 2011.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will SNAP households be enrolled in this initiative?

Eligible households are automatically enrolled as of September 11, 2010. The SNAP household does not have to do anything to be enrolled.

How will the SNAP household be informed about the Heat and Eat Initiative?

Eligible households will be informed that they are enrolled in this initiative through a flyer that will be sent with their Mass Grant Change notice.

How will SNAP households access their heat and eat benefit?

SNAP recipients can access their heat and eat dollar benefit at any store that accepts Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Cards. The recipient will have to enter cash to use their heat and eat benefit and it may be used on any item. The heat and eat benefit does not follow the same rules as SNAP in regards to items that can be purchased.

Next Steps

1. Review this information with your staff.
2. Direct any questions to your area manager.
3. This Operations Memorandum will become obsolete when the initiative ends.