

## From the Hotline

Q. When is a food stamp AU entitled to the Heating SUA?

- A. A food stamp AU is entitled to the Heating SUA when the food stamp AU:
- incurs heating costs separately from its rent or mortgage and is billed regularly for its heating costs; or
  - receives Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act (LIHEAA) payments; or
  - incurs out-of-pocket heating expenses in excess of an energy assistance payment received other than a LIHEAA payment.

Q. Is a food stamp AU's eligibility for the Heating SUA based on: a) *eligibility* for the LIHEAA Program; b) actual *receipt* of a LIHEAA payment; or c) the *authorization* of a LIHEAA payment?

- A. Eligibility for the Heating SUA is based on the receipt of a LIHEAA payment - either already received or reasonably anticipated to be received. If a LIHEAA payment has been authorized, the AU Manager can anticipate with reasonable certainty that it will be received.

Note: AUs that have their utilities included in their rent may receive a LIHEAA payment.

Q. What is considered "reasonable anticipation" of receipt of LIHEAA?

- A. "Reasonable anticipation" of receipt of LIHEAA must be determined on an individual household basis. There are some guidelines that may be used. For example, if a food stamp AU received LIHEAA during the previous heating season and anticipates applying again and LIHEAA funds are available, it is likely that a LIHEAA payment will be received and the AU would then be entitled to the Heating SUA. Provider agencies for the LIHEAA payment are the best source of information for questions if receipt of LIHEAA funds is questionable.

Q. I think that my food stamp AU meets the criteria for a LIHEAA payment and would be eligible if she applied. Can I give this household a Heating SUA?

- A. No. If the AU has not applied and does not intend to apply for LIHEAA, it cannot be anticipated with reasonable certainty that a LIHEAA payment will be received. The Heating SUA is given to AUs who have received or will be receiving LIHEAA. You should encourage all individuals who may be eligible for LIHEAA to apply.

Q. How would a LIHEAA payment made to the landlord be handled?

- A. A LIHEAA payment could be sent directly to the landlord and the rent the AU must pay is reduced by the amount of the LIHEAA payment. For food stamp purposes, the full amount of the rent must be allowed as a shelter deduction and the AU must be given the full Heating SUA.

## BEACON Action Center

### All Field Operations Memo 2000-33

This Field Operations Memo clarifies the process which has been developed to receive and respond to BEACON Release 2.0 issues via the BEACON Action Center.