


- Q.** Although the cooler months are here, I am still recertifying AUs using the Heating/Cooling SUA even though many of my recipients are not currently paying for any heating or cooling costs. If my recipient normally pays for cooling costs during the spring and summer months but has neither heating nor cooling expenses during the winter, is he still entitled to Heating/Cooling SUA when his 12- month certification period ends this month?
- A.** Yes. SUAs are yearly amounts. Although your recipient is not currently paying any heating or cooling costs, it would be appropriate to use the Heating/Cooling SUA as long as cooling is a regular, recurring expense in the spring and summer months.
- Q.** A food stamp AU lives in a subsidized housing unit. Currently, all of their expenses are included in the rent and the AU has not had an SUA deduction. However, starting in the spring our local housing authority began billing the AU an additional \$17.00 per month for use of an air conditioner. The AU received their last bill for air conditioner usage in October. Is the AU eligible for the Heating/Cooling SUA because it incurs an extra charge for the use of an air conditioner?
- A.** Yes. This AU is eligible for the Heating/Cooling SUA not only during the summer months, but throughout the year. SUAs are yearly amounts. Although this AU will not be paying cooling costs over the next several months, it is appropriate to use the Heating/Cooling SUA as long as the cooling is a regular, recurring expense.
- Q.** Is a food stamp AU's eligibility for the Heating/Cooling SUA based on: a) *eligibility* for the LIHEAA/Fuel Assistance Program b) actual *receipt* of a LIHEAA/Fuel Assistance payment; or c) the *authorization* of a LIHEAA/Fuel Assistance payment?
- A.** Eligibility for the Heating/Cooling SUA is based on the receipt of a LIHEAA/Fuel Assistance payment, either already or reasonably anticipated to be received. If a LIHEAA/Fuel Assistance 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/Fuel Assistance payment.

- Q.** What is considered "reasonable anticipation" of receipt of LIHEAA/Fuel Assistance?
- A.** "Reasonable anticipation" of receipt of LIHEAA/Fuel Assistance 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/Fuel Assistance during the previous heating season and anticipates applying again and LIHEAA/Fuel Assistance funds are available, it is likely that a LIHEAA/Fuel Assistance payment will be received and the AU would then be entitled to the Heating/Cooling SUA. Provider agencies for the LIHEAA/Fuel Assistance payment are the best source of information if receipt of LIHEAA/Fuel Assistance funds is questionable.

More information on the SUA topic is located in *A User's Guide: Transitional Assistance Programs and BEACON*, Chapter XIV, pages I-4 through I-6 as well as in 106 CMR 364.400 (G).

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