

Information Memorandum Transmittal Office of Self-Sufficiency Programs



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Deputy Administrator

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Number: SS-IM-19-012

Issue date: 09/13/19

Topic: Food Benefits

Due date: 09/13/19

Subject: Heat and Eat Program

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging: Type B | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self Sufficiency Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Intensive In Home Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD program managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support Service Brokerage Directors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): Branch 5503 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Residential Services | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare Programs | |

Message: The Heat and Eat Program

The Heat and Eat Program - Background

The "Heat and Eat Program" is administered by DHS using funds provided by the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). OHCS establishes the criteria to be eligible for this program. To be eligible, families must not be receiving a deduction on their SNAP case due to paying heating expenses. Eligible families receive a onetime \$21 cash payment directly into their EBT account. Receiving this energy assistance payment changes the utility allowance to the Full Utility Allowance (FUA) which could increase SNAP benefits.

What's happening for October?

All LHP coding will be removed in September at end of month processing. To continue to be eligible for FUA the household LIHEAP payment must be issued first. LHP coding can only be added by the system and it is important to code the correct

utility allowance based on what the household is actually paying, and is eligible for, when processing applications after 10/01. SNAP benefits may be lower the initial month, and if the system determines that the household meets eligibility criteria for the \$21 energy assistance payment, will automatically update the utility allowance to FUA, add LHP in the HH type field and the participant will notice any increase in their next month's SNAP allotment. When the system identifies a household is eligible a **notice is sent to participants, informing them of the program and its benefits.**

Note: If a recertification is processed for October on or after 10/1 the family will not get the H&E payments until the end of October, so FUA won't be allowed until the November budget calculation. This will result in a lower benefit for October. The only way to avoid this for households currently coded LHP is to process the recert prior/no later than 09/30/19.

There is no retroactive eligibility for the Heat and Eat Program, regardless of whether the benefits are processed in a timely manner or not. Also, since the Heat and Eat Program is funded by OHCS, and not SNAP, it is not subject to DHS hearings. However, a household always has the right to request a hearing if they disagree with a decision or their SNAP allotment.

Please see transmittal [SS-IM-18-030](#) for additional information related to the Heat and Eat Program.

If you have any questions about this information, contact:

Contact(s): SNAP Policy	
Phone:	Fax:
Email: SNAP.POLICY@dhsosha.state.or.us	