



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for
Human Services

August 14, 2020

Dear County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Energy Administrators, Managers & Supervisors

Subject: Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) Automated Payment & Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) and LIEAP ePASS Applications

Priority: Information & Action

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act that was passed by Congress, provided additional funds to States navigating the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19.

North Carolina received \$25 million dollars in CARES Act funding to apply towards the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program Block Grant. LIHEAP consist of three main programs, the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP), Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) and Weatherization Program. These funds will be allocated as follows; \$4 million dollars will go to the Weatherization Program, \$18 million will be used for an automated LIEAP payment and 10% will be used as county administrative funds and for NC FAST development of an online application process. These administrative funds are in addition to the regular LIEAP administrative dollars. CARES Act funding has its own guidelines and will be audited and tracked separately.

The LIHEAP Block Grant that will be submitted on September 1, 2020 will explain the CARES Act funding plan and provide clarification for audit purposes. The first week of November 2020, households will be selected to receive a notice if they meet certain criteria using CARES Act funding. Automated payments will be generated following the normal issuance process based on the households primary heating source. Households will receive \$300 for wood, \$400 for gas and \$500 for electric.

- Households with persons aged 60 or older or,
- Households with disabled individuals receiving services through the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) and,
- Received LIEAP payment for 2019-2020 fiscal year and are currently receiving Food and Nutrition Services

A notice with prepopulated information from 2019-2020 LIEAP application will be sent to the household that meet the criteria listed above. The households will be instructed to update any

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES • ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES

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changes and return to the local county department of social services. If changes are reported the county will update the information in NC FAST to determine if the household is eligible for the 2020-2021 LIEAP payment. If no changes are reported, LIEAP year 2019-2020 information will be used to approve the application. Counties will use the same payment process that was used for the one-time payment.

NC FAST is currently developing an online CIP and LIEAP application via the ePASS portal. This online application option should be available no later than January 1, 2021. With social distancing measures in place, this addition will provide an easy and simple non-face to face application process for clients.

An administrative letter will be posted the first week in September with specific details of the LIEAP automated process and the ability for households to apply for CIP and LIEAP via ePASS. A webinar is also being planned for October to help clarify and answer any questions.

If you have any questions, please contact Jasmyne Simmons via email at Jasmyne.Simmons@dhhs.nc.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Locklear". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

David Locklear, Deputy Director

DL/js

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