



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services

Economic Independence Section • 325 North Salisbury Street
2420 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2420
Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Beal, Director
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary
3055

Pheon E.
(919) 733-

July 23, 2002

**Re: 2002-2003 Low Income Home
Energy Assistance Plan**

Dear County Director of Social Services:

Attention: LIEAP Supervisors

The 2002-2003 Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEA) proposed Plan for the State of North Carolina was reviewed by the General Assembly during this year's legislative session. The LIHEAP Work Group, which included county, State, and automation staff, made recommendations for this year's Energy Plan. Under this plan, Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) payments will be targeted toward all food stamp households active in the Food Stamp Information System (FSIS) as of September 30th, 2002, with a certification-through date of October 2002 or greater. These households will receive an automatic payment for heating costs if they meet all LIEAP guidelines. Other households that include individuals who are disabled, elderly, and families with young children, and able-bodied adults may apply for LIEAP assistance at the county department of social services during the application period of November 4th through November 15th, 2002. Saturday, November 16th, will be an optional date for counties to take applications. Payments will be based on income and resources received during October 2002.

Food stamp households, who do not meet the certification criteria listed above, will be mailed notification to apply at the local department of social services during the application period of November 4th through November 15th, 2002, with Saturday November 16th as an optional day to take applications. Counties will be sent laser printed DSS-8114's the week of October 14th through October 18th and a listing of screened-out households.

The recommended changes for this year include adding history for energy cases for 5 years, duplicate address report will list duplicate addresses of households in the same county only, additional function to the Name Search selection, and the ability for each county to key the address of the agency in the Energy System for the return address for client notices. The Energy Manual changes are expected to be mailed to counties in August to assist in preparation for training. Program Integrity Representatives (PIRs)

will schedule training for counties during months of September 2002. Please contact your local PIR for the potential training dates.

We look forward to working with you to better serve our clients in this coming Energy year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your Program Integrity Representative or Alice Smith of my staff at (919) 733-7831.

Sincerely,

Wilbert R. Morris, Chief
Economic Independence Section

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