



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

December 21, 2021

Dear County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Energy Administrators, Managers & Supervisors

Subject: Auto Pandemic Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) Payments

Priority: Information & Action

As result of the state budget being passed, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds will be used for a pandemic automatically authorized payment for households with children age 0-10 that are receiving FNS and received LIEAP last Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Automatically authorized payments will be generated based on the households primary heating source. Households will receive \$300 for wood, \$400 for gas and \$500 for electric. This process will be the same process that was used for the automatically authorized payments done in December 2020 utilizing the CARES Act Pandemic LIEAP funds and will be solely based on the households' heating source and not their income or available resources.

These households will receive a notice with prepopulated information from 2020-2021 LIEAP application. The households will be instructed to update any changes to their heating source and account information and return to the local county department of social services. Income and resources are **not** counted for pandemic funds.

- If changes in the heating source or accounted information is reported, the county will need to update the information in NC FAST. Income and resources information do not need to be updated because they will not be counted.
- If no changes are reported, 2020-2021 LIEAP information will be used to approve the application.
- Beginning December 20, 2021, the clone applications will display in NC FAST in a "waiting list" status. County workers **should not** take any actions on these applications until January 3, 2022. A report will also be posted in FAST HELP for county workers, listing all eligible households.
- December 21, 2021, notices will be mailed to households informing them to contact their local county DSS office between January 3, 2022 and January 19, 2022 if there were any changes to their heating sources and/or heating vendor.
- Starting January 3, 2022, through January 19, 2022 caseworkers can edit and confirm changes to applications but **should not** authorize or approve applications.

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

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

- NC FAST will run a batch to authorize the pandemic payments on January 22, 2022, and approval notices will be sent to households on January 25, 2022.
- Due to regular LIEAP, Pandemic funds will not be loaded until January. This is to ensure that the system is pulling funds from the correct funding source. Attached is a copy of the funding authorization for counties to present to their boards for approval. Once the funds are loaded into the system, a communication will be issued. This will be sent prior to approval notices being sent to households.

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

Sincerely,



Carla West, Senior Director for Economic Security

CLW/js

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