

CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL

DATE: November 26, 2025
MANUAL: Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Certification Manual
TO: County Directors of Social Services
CHANGE NO: #03-2025
SUBJECT: Treatment of Energy Assistance Payments Provision of the H.R. 1 Reconciliation Bill
EFFECTIVE: December 1, 2025

I. BACKGROUND

The purpose of this change notice is to announce updates to the Food and Nutrition Services Policy Manual that implement how FNS treats receipt of a payment under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (LIHEAA) or other similar energy assistance programs for the purposes of the Heating and Cooling Standard Utility Allowance (SUA), depending on whether the household contains an elderly or disabled member. These changes implement amendments to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 enacted by H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2008 (OBBB).

H.R. 1 requires that households receiving a qualifying LIEAP or other payment contain an elderly or disabled member in order to have the SUA automatically applied to their case. Therefore, FNS must no longer automatically confer HSUA eligibility to households without an elderly or disabled member based on receipt of a qualifying LIEAP payment. Households without an elderly or disabled member still qualify for the SUA, if the household incurs heating or cooling expenses consistent with the provisions in FNS § 340.09.

II. SPECIFIC CHANGES

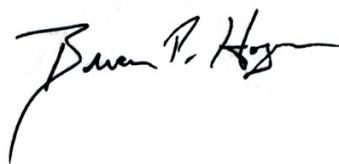
FNS 340 Deductions	
FNS 340.09 D:8	Updated section to include new LIEAP policy

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please be advised of the updated requirements for applications and recertifications, which will take effect on December 1, 2025. Changes implemented by this policy will be applied to applications and recertifications as of the effective date. For your convenience, we have attached the required manual section.

If you have any questions, please submit them to the Continuous Quality Improvement Specialist (CQIS) dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian P. Hogan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brian Patrick Hogan
Deputy Director of Nutrition
Division of Child and Family Well-Being

Attachments (2):
FNS 340 Deductions