



Department of Human Resources
311 W. Saratoga St.
Baltimore, MD. 21201-3521

FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

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**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS**

K Cook for K Mahon
FROM: KEVIN MAHON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA

RE: ENERGY ASSISTANCE

PROGRAM AFFECTED: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

**ORIGINATING OFFICE: OPA/ DIVISION OF PROGRAM POLICY AND
REGULATION**

BACKGROUND

A food stamp provision of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, changes the treatment of the Energy Heating Need portion of the Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) grant.

CURRENT POLICY

Currently a portion of the TCA grant is considered an energy need and is excluded from income for the food stamp calculation.

NEW POLICY

The federal welfare reform legislation limits the energy assistance exclusion to:

1. Federal energy assistance, except that provided under the welfare block grant, and
2. Federal or State one-time assistance for weatherization or emergency repair of heating or cooling devices.

THIS MEANS:

- The Energy Heating Need (Column VI of the current Schedule H) portion of the TCA grant is now countable income. The entire TCA grant is counted when calculating the food stamp benefit amount.
- Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) payments continue to be excluded income and all expenses paid by the MEAP payment are considered out-of-pocket expenses qualifying for the standard utility allowance (SUA).
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD) utility reimbursements continue to be excluded income.

ACTION REQUIRED

The Energy Heating Need will be eliminated as a mass change in both CARES and AIMS effective November 1, 1996. A Notice of Adverse Action will be sent prior to November 1.

AIMS

Food stamp cases in special processing with TCA income must be identified and recalculated using the full amount of the grant. A copy of the Monthly Allowable Amounts to be Paid table is attached.

Food Stamp cases which contain associated TCA cases with a different case number will need to have the TCA grant information adjusted manually via the AIMS 3 and the AIMS 2/3 C.

CARES

The system will eliminate the energy heating allowance the weekend of October 5, 1996.

ACTION DUE

The policy is effective October 1, 1996, for new applicants. The mass change for ongoing cases will be effective November 1, 1996.

INQUIRIES

Please direct questions to Kay Finegan at (410) 767-7939.

cc: FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services

MONTHLY ALLOWABLE AMOUNTS TO BE PAID

Number of persons in the assistance unit	Allowable Amount
1	\$165
2	292
3	373
4	450
5	521
6	573
7	645
8	709
9	766
10	826
11	886
12	946
13	1004