



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

April 24, 2013

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 13-35

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL CONSORTIA REPRESENTATIVES
ALL QUALITY CONTROL COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: HEAT AND EAT PROGRAM

REFERENCE: WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE (WIC) SECTION 18901.2;
ACL NO. 12-61 DATED OCTOBER 30, 2012

The purpose of this letter is to provide County Welfare Departments (CWDs) with additional instructions for the Heat and Eat Program as it pertains to certain homeless households (refer to ACL 12-61). As stated in Assembly Bill (AB) 6 (Chapter 501, Statutes of 2011), all CalFresh households will annually receive a nominal Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) payment. Receipt or the expectation of receipt of a LIHEAP benefit entitles households to the full Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) for the purpose of calculating CalFresh benefits.

In addition, because federal regulations prohibit households receiving the homeless shelter deduction from having the SUA used in the calculation of benefits, ACL12-61 states that "...the homeless shelter deduction, Telephone Utility Allowance and Limited Utility Allowance will no longer be used in the determination of CalFresh allotments." Subsequent to the implementation of Heat and Eat, it has become evident that some homeless households which were previously eligible for the homeless shelter deduction have experienced a decrease in benefits due to the SUA being used in their CalFresh benefit calculation instead of the homeless shelter deduction.

As stated in AB 6, the intent of Heat and Eat is to increase, rather than decrease benefits for some CalFresh households. Therefore, CWDs must determine which deduction should be used in the CalFresh budget calculation for the homeless household so as to not adversely affect the household's benefits. For example, if the allotment of a household eligible for the homeless shelter deduction is reduced due to utilizing the SUA in the CalFresh budget calculation, the CWD shall continue to use the

homeless shelter deduction rather than the SUA. Regardless of which deduction is used, the household will still receive the LIHEAP payment.

Homeless households adversely impacted by receiving the SUA rather than the homeless shelter deduction should have their benefits recalculated using the correct deduction retroactively to January 1, 2013, the implementation date for the Heat and Eat Program.

As a reminder, only those homeless households which incur or reasonably expect to incur shelter costs during a month are eligible to utilize the homeless shelter deduction without providing verification of the shelter cost (MPP 63-502.353). Likewise, homeless households which do not incur shelter costs during a month shall not be eligible for the homeless shelter deduction (MPP 63-502.354).

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact your CalFresh county analyst or call the CalFresh Policy Bureau at (916) 654-1896.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

TODD R. BLAND
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division