

DSS-4357EL

WGIUPD

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
DIVISION: TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE

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TO: LOCAL DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS; IM DIRECTORS; HEAP LIAISONS, FISCAL ADMINISTRATORS

FROM: PATRICIA A. STEVENS, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
DIVISION OF TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE

SUBJECT: HEAP CONTINGENCY FUNDS

EFFECTIVE DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2000

CONTACT PERSON: WESTERN REGIONAL TEAM 1 (800) 342-3009 EXT. 3-0332

BETWEEN JANUARY 25 AND FEBRUARY 10, 2000, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RELEASED \$175 MILLION IN FEDERAL LIHEAP CONTINGENCY FUNDING. NEW YORK STATE WILL RECEIVE APPROXIMATELY \$37 MILLION OF THESE FUNDS. THE RELEASE IS RELATED TO THE CLIMB IN HOME HEATING FUEL PRICES EXPERIENCED THIS YEAR.

THESE FUNDS WILL BE USED TO ASSIST HEAP ELIGIBLE NON-UTILITY FUEL (OIL, KEROSENE, PROPANE, ETC.), HEATING HOUSEHOLDS IN MEETING THEIR INCREASED FUEL COSTS.

EFFECTIVE FOR APPLICATIONS DATED FROM FEBRUARY 16, 2000, ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE, SPECIFICALLY TARGETED TO HEAP ELIGIBLE NON-UTILITY FUEL USERS WILL BE AVAILABLE. THE 1999-2000 PROGRAM HAS BEEN MODIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

- THE EMERGENCY BASIC BENEFIT AMOUNT FOR NON-UTILITY HEATERS IS INCREASED FROM \$270 TO \$400. ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS WILL RECEIVE THE NEW BASIC BENEFIT AMOUNT PLUS ANY SUPPLEMENTAL AMOUNT (TIER I, VULNERABLE MEMBER OR 5 OR MORE HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS) AS APPROPRIATE. HOUSEHOLDS WITH AN APPLICATION DATE OF 2/16/00 OR LATER ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS INCREASED BENEFIT.
- A SECOND NON-UTILITY HEATING/EMERGENCY BENEFIT HAS BEEN ADDED. THIS BENEFIT IS AVAILABLE TO HOUSEHOLDS MEETING THE HEAP EMERGENCY GUIDELINES. THE BENEFIT IS ISSUED AT THE NEW BASIC AMOUNT (\$400.00).
- A SECOND REGULAR BENEFIT, EQUAL TO THE FIRST REGULAR BENEFIT AMOUNT IS AVAILABLE TO HOUSEHOLDS THAT HEAT WITH NON-UTILITY FUEL (OIL, PROPANE, KEROSENE, WOOD, COAL).

ELIGIBILITY, BENEFIT CALCULATION, AND ISSUANCE OF ALL OTHER HEAP BENEFITS REMAINS THE SAME.

DISTRICTS ARE ADVISED TO TRACK APPLICATIONS TAKEN BEGINNING ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS GIS (2/16/00) SO THAT UPON RECEIPT OF SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS, ADDITIONAL BENEFITS CAN BE PROVIDED WHERE APPROPRIATE.

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DISTRICTS WILL BE PROVIDED ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE CONTINGENCY MONEY TO ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS.

A PRESS RELEASE AND AD CAMPAIGN WILL BE CONDUCTED BY OTDA AND SOFA. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE SPECIFIC PROCEDURES DISTRICTS AND LOCAL CERTIFIERS MUST FOLLOW WILL BE PROVIDED TO HEAP COORDINATORS UNDER SEPARATE COVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE INSTRUCTIONS BEING MAILED WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE INFO/OFFICE SYSTEM THURSDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 17, 2000.