

DSS-4357EL

WGIUPD

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
DIVISION: Temporary Assistance

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TO: IM Directors; FS Directors; HEAP Liaisons; WMS Coordinators;
BICS Coordinators

FROM: Patricia A. Stevens, Deputy Commissioner
Division of Temporary Assistance

SUBJECT: HEAP Mass Authorization Exception Reports

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: Questions: DTA Eastern Team at 1-800-343-8859,
extension 3-1469

Please refer to the Dear WMS and BICS Coordinators letter of 10/16/00 that explained the 11/04/00 PA and 11/11/00 FS HEAP Mass Authorization. It would also be helpful to review ABEL Transmittal 00-2, Information #2: "HT/AC SUA Eligibility Revisions" and 00 INF-18 "Clarification of the Relationship between the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) and Receipt of HEAP".

As projected in the October 16th 2000 WMS Coordinator Letter, WMS HEAP mass authorization action was taken over the weekend of November 4th for TA cases, and November 11th for FS cases. Any cases with a HT/AC IND = "R" on the FS ABEL budget were identified and put on the HEAP Exception List. As explained in ABEL Transmittal 00-2, Information #2, use of the HT/AC Indicator "R" should be limited to cases budgeted without the HT/AC SUA because the household had indicated they did not intend to apply for HEAP if not included in the HEAP auto-pay. It is expected that this would rarely occur. These potentially HEAP eligible FS households should be examined in accordance with normal HEAP eligibility criteria. If HEAP eligible, they should be authorized a HEAP payment, regardless of their intention not to apply. Prior to authorization of a HEAP payment for these FS households, workers will be required by WMS edits to modify (and store) the food stamp budget, entering an "X" in the HT/AC IND, to grant the HT/AC SUA. WMS will then allow error free authorization of a HEAP payment.

As districts were informed in 00 INF-18, food stamp households are to be granted a HT/AC SUA based on incurred heating/cooling expenses, receipt of a HEAP payment, or reasonable anticipation of a HEAP payment. Reasonable anticipation is based on the applicant/recipient signing a statement that they intend to apply for HEAP if not automatically included in the HEAP mass authorization.