

MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF MEDICAID

Eligibility Policy and Procedures Manual

200.07.35 LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Through a block grant, the federal government provides funds to states for energy assistance (including weatherization) to low income households. This assistance may be provided by a variety of agencies (such as state or local welfare offices, community action agencies, special energy offices) and known by a variety of names (for example, HEAP, Project Safe). It is most often provided in a medium other than cash (such as, voucher, two-party check, direct payment to vendor) but may be in cash.

Home energy assistance payments or allowances provided under the Federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) are not counted as income or resources.

200.07.36 HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE (HEA/SMA)

Low income energy assistance discussed above is governmental assistance. The legislative intent of the exclusion of HEA/SMA was to address charitable efforts by the community to help recipients.

Home energy assistance is any assistance related to meeting the costs of heating or cooling a home. Support and maintenance assistance is in-kind support and maintenance or cash provided for the purpose of meeting food, clothing and shelter needs. It includes energy assistance.

Home energy or support and maintenance assistance is not counted as income if it is certified in writing by the appropriate state agency to be both based on need and:

- Provided **in-kind** by a private nonprofit agency (501(c) organization); or
- Provided **in cash or in-kind** by a supplier of home heating oil or gas, a rate-of-return entity (e.g., a utility company) providing home energy, or a municipal utility providing home energy.