

Service Chapter: Low Income Home Energy Assistance 415

Effective Date: May 1, 2023

Description of Changes

1. Cooling Assistance Program 415-60 – Clarification

Update in policy to exclude documentation of medical need requirement.

Policy Section Updates

1. Cooling Assistance Program 415-60

~~The~~ North Dakota State LIHEAP does not routinely include a cooling program. However, the State reserves the option to implement a temporary cooling program contingent upon available funding, or in the event of unusual cooling needs due to weather aberrations, or an emergency disaster declaration.

A LIHEAP-eligible household may qualify for a cooling device (an air conditioner or a fan, as the need dictates), ~~if a member of the household has a documented medical need~~. The household need not be responsible for paying heating costs so tenants in subsidized housing and their heat is included in their rent may qualify.

~~Documentation of a household member's medical need for a cooling device will not be required if there is an elderly person (age 60 or over) in the household.~~

~~Documentation of medical need will continue to be required when there are no elderly persons in the household.~~

~~If a complete application is received on or before May 31, the household may be eligible for other benefits as well. If the application is taken after May 31, the household will not be eligible for other benefits.~~

If a household requests cooling assistance ~~May – September~~ and they received LIHEAP during the regular heating season, a cooling referral notice can be sent to Community Action or the client can ~~take~~ provide a copy of their approval notice to Community Action as verification of eligibility, ~~or you can generate a cooling referral notice can be sent to Community Action by for a cooling device.~~

If the household requests cooling assistance after May 31 and they did not receive LIHEAP during the regular season because they had been denied during the year, live in subsidized housing and heat was included in their rent, or never applied in the heating season, they may apply for a cooling device by completing the LIHEAP application (SFN 529). If they are determined income eligible, send a cooling referral notice to Community Action. However, households who apply after May 31 will not be eligible for any other LIHEAP benefits.

The LIHEAP application form has a release of information to permit sharing of information between the Community Action Agencies and LIHEAP. ~~Community Action Agencies are responsible for obtaining verification of medical need.~~