



Governor Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
San Wong, Director

Iowa LIHEAP Program Notice 20-05

To: Executive Directors and LIHEAP Coordinators
From: Christine Taylor, Energy Assistance Bureau Chief
Bill Brand, DCAA Administrator
Date: April 15, 2020
Re: Changes to Iowa LIHEAP Programmatic Operations Due to COVID-19

Effective Date: April 15, 2020 until further notice

Due to COVID-19, operation of the LIHEAP program is changing to meet the needs of agencies and customers. Because this is a continuously evolving issue, the following directives are in effect until further notice. Section numbers refer to sections as outlined in the *Iowa LIHEAP Policy and Procedures Manual*.

Section 6.10 Income Verification

Per PN20-04, agencies are authorized to use a 30-day look-ahead period, if an applicant is unable to qualify for the program using a standard verification period.

To clarify, if a household member is unaffected by COVID-19 (e.g., is still working a normal number of hours, even if from home), a standard verification period is to be used. If another household member has experienced reduced hours or has been laid off due to COVID-19, the 30-day look-ahead period may be used instead.

Appendix C – LIHEAP Income Source Guide

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed into law on March 27, 2020, to battle COVID-19 and its economic effects, increased the availability of unemployment insurance benefits to those that are self-employed, contract workers, those ineligible for state unemployment benefits or have exhausted benefits and includes Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC). For more information, visit <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/COVID-19>.

Expanded unemployment benefits under the CARES Act Programs is to be excluded from income when determining LIHEAP eligibility (regular LIHEAP and the crisis program), through the end of the federal fiscal year, September 30, 2020.

Agencies are to track the households in which CARES Act benefits were excluded (both economic rebates and unemployment), separately either in a spreadsheet or the software, in order to later identify the number of households affected.

NOTE: Non-CARES Act unemployment benefits must still be counted as income.