



MEPD and TW Bulletin 25-20

Date: Nov. 10, 2025

To: State and Regional Operations Supervisors and Staff
Program Managers
Regional Directors
Policy Attorneys
Hearings Officers

From: Access and Eligibility Services Program Policy
State Office 2106

Subject: Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (LIHEAA)

The information in this bulletin will be included in a future handbook revision. Until the handbook is updated, staff must use the information in this bulletin. If you have any questions regarding the policy information in this bulletin, follow regional procedures.

Active bulletins are posted on the following websites:

- [Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities Handbook \(MEPDH\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/mepd/policy-bulletins) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/mepd/policy-bulletins>;
- [Texas Works Handbook \(TWH\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/texas-works-bulletins) at <https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook/texas-works-bulletins>.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (LIHEAA)

Background

On July 4, 2025, House Resolution (H.R.) 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (P.L. 119-21) was signed into law. The law modifies how the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) is applied for SNAP households that receive assistance from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (LIHEAA) or other similar energy assistance programs. Under the updated provision, SNAP households that receive assistance from LIHEAA or a similar energy assistance program qualify for the SUA if the household contains an elderly or disabled member.

Current Policy

[SNAP](#)

As SUA deduction is allowed for households that have received a payment or had one made on their behalf through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). To receive this deduction, the household must have either had LIHEAP or similar energy assistance program payment exceeding \$20 annually, either in the current month or within the last 12 months ([TWH A-1429.3.1 Standard Utility Allowance \(SUA\)](#)). If the household does not qualify for the SUA, determine if the household qualifies for the Basic Utility Allowance (BUA) or the Telephone Standard. ([TWH A-1429.3.2, Basic Utility Allowance \(BUA\)](#), and [TWH A-1429.4, Telephone Standard](#))

New Policy

[SNAP](#)

As SUA deduction is allowed for households that include an elderly or disabled person, have received a payment, or had one made on their behalf through the LIHEAP. To receive this deduction, the household must have either had LIHEAP or similar energy assistance program payment exceeding \$20 annually, either in the current month or within the last 12 months.

Households without an elderly or disabled person may still qualify for the SUA if the household incurs heating or cooling costs separate from their rent or mortgage. If the household does not qualify for the SUA, determine if the household qualifies for the Basic Utility Allowance (BUA) or the Telephone Standard.

Note: For purposes of the LIHEAA, refer to [TWH B-431, Definition of Elderly](#), and [TWH B-432, Definition of Disability](#).

Automation

Automation changes are not required.

Correspondence

Correspondence changes are not required.

Handbook

Updates to the MEPDH are not required.

The TWH is currently scheduled to be updated in the April 2026 revision.

Training

A training broadcast will be sent with further details.

Effective Date

This policy is effective with the release of this bulletin.