

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
Center for Employment & Economic Supports

May 14, 2014
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TO: Subscribers

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION: Commissioners, TA and SNAP Directors,
HEAP Coordinators

FROM: Phyllis D. Morris, Deputy Commissioner
Center for Employment and Economic Supports

SUBJECT: No-Heat Referrals to NYSERDA EmPower

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: HEAP Bureau at 1(800) 343-8859, extension 3-0332

The purpose of this GIS message is to inform Social Services Districts (SSDs) that effective May 16, 2014, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) EmPower program will no longer be available as a resource and accept referrals from the SSD to respond to no-heat situations for households with inoperable heating equipment as established in GIS 14 TA/DC002.

After that date, however, NYSERDA EmPower will still accept referrals from the SSD for no cost energy efficiency services as follows:

- Households heating with natural gas: EmPower offers a full range of energy efficiency services including insulation, air sealing, and electric reduction upgrades. Heating system upgrades may also be considered if cost-effective.
- Households heating with oil, propane, kerosene, wood or coal: Due to limited funding, EmPower may only provide these households with electric reduction services according to program guidelines. NYSERDA will send out written notification if additional funds become available.

Individuals seeking help with heating equipment repair or replacement needs may, if they apply and are found eligible, have their needs met under Family Assistance (FA), Safety Net Assistance (SNA), Emergency Assistance to Families (EAF) or Emergency Assistance for Adults (EAA). Department Regulations 18 NYCRR 352.4, 352.6(e), 352.7(b), 372.4(b) and 397.5(h) provide districts the ability to meet the costs necessary for the repair or replacement of essential heating equipment if the repair or replacement is essential to the health and safety of the household.

If you have any additional questions, please contact the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance HEAP Bureau.