

**DATE:** March 28, 2019

**TO:** Subscribers

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

**FROM:** Jeffrey Gaskell, Assistant Deputy Commissioner  
Employment and Income Support Programs

**SUBJECT:** 2019-2020 Home Energy Assistance Program Nominal Benefit

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

**CONTACT PERSON:** HEAP Bureau at: 518-473-0332

The purpose of this GIS is to inform social services districts (districts) that the 2019-2020 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Nominal Benefit is available beginning April 27, 2019.

Effective April 27, 2019 districts must authorize a nominal benefit payment in the amount of \$21 to newly-eligible HEAP eligible Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households with recurring benefits and recertified HEAP eligible SNAP households that do not incur a separate cost for heating/air conditioning expenses. These households must not have received a HEAP benefit in the twelve months preceding the month of application. The authorization will allow a household to qualify for the highest-level Heating/Cooling Standard Utility Allowance (HCSUA); thereby maximizing the SNAP monthly benefit.

The \$21 HEAP nominal benefit may be authorized on case types: 11, 12, 16, 17, and 31 utilizing Payment Type code NX - HEAP Nominal Benefit. The NX Payment FROM Date on WMS Screen 6 must be equal to or greater than 04/27/19 and less than or equal to the Transaction Date. The TO Date on WMS Screen 6 must equal 9/30 of the current HEAP season.

Questions regarding the HEAP Nominal benefit, can be addressed with each district's HEAP Bureau liaison.