

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
Center for Employment and Economic Supports

September 1, 2009

Page: 1

TO: Commissioners; TA Directors; FS Directors; WMS Coordinators; CAP/TOP Coordinators;
Staff Development Coordinators

FROM: Russell Sykes, Deputy Commissioner, Center for Employment and Economic Supports

SUBJECT: Extension of the Repayment Terms of the Utility Arrears Repayment Agreement

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 11, 2009

CONTACT PERSON: Temporary Assistance Bureau at 1-800-343-8859, extension 4-9344

Chapter 318 of the Laws of 2009 amended Social Services Law (SSL) § 131-s requiring local districts to extend the repayment term of utility repayment agreements from one year to two years effective August 11, 2009.

SSL §131-s and 18 NYCRR § 352.5(e) require certain households with a utility (natural gas and/or electricity) emergency to sign a repayment agreement as a condition of eligibility for an emergency utility arrears payment. A Non-Temporary Assistance (NTA) household must sign a repayment agreement as a condition of receiving utility arrearage assistance when:

- the customer and tenant of record is not categorized as a Temporary Assistance (TA) or Supplemental Security (SSI) household at the time of request for emergency assistance, **and**
- the household's gross monthly income on the date of application exceeds the TA standard of need for that household size.

Previously, a Utility Arrears Repayment Agreement would specify that the NTA applicant must repay the arrears assistance to the district within one year (12-months) of the date of the payment. Effective August 11, 2009, the NTA applicant must sign to repay the arrears assistance to the district within **two years (24-months)** of the date of the payment.

Note: Local districts must not require recipients of recurring TA or SSI to sign a Utility Arrears Repayment Agreement.

For those repayment agreements signed on or after August 11, 2009, but prior to the release of this GIS, local districts must recalculate the terms of the agreement and advise those recipients of a utility arrears payment of the reduced payment due the agency. Please find a revised version of the "Utility Arrears Repayment Agreement", found in Section XV of the Energy Manual, attached to this GIS. Local districts should begin using this version of the Repayment Agreement immediately.

An Administrative Directive will be forthcoming.