

CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL

MANUAL: Energy Assistance Manual

CHANGE NO.: 5-2004 October 21, 2004

TO: County Directors of Social Services

EFFECTIVE November 1, 2004, make the following changes to the Energy Manual.

I. BACKGROUND

Share the Warmth is a new program for low income households experiencing a heating related crisis. Funding is from monies contributed by North Carolina Natural Gas (NCNG) customers and employees and from corporate donations. Allocations are made **only** to counties that have NCNG residential customers and are based on the number of NCNG residential customers in each county. Households do not have to heat with natural gas to be eligible for Share the Warmth and may receive funds for all types of fuel used.

A household must be experiencing a heating related crisis, have countable net income at or below 150% of the current poverty level, and assistance must be authorized within 18 to 48 hours. Benefits cannot exceed \$100 per application and \$200 per calendar year. NCNG counties can spend Share the Warmth funds until the monies are exhausted or until the end of the heating season.

II. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

This policy is effective once NCNG counties receive their allocation.

III. INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE ENERGY ASSISTANCE MANUAL

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If you have any questions, please contact your Food Assistance and Energy Programs Representative.

Sincerely,

Jane Schwartz, Chief
Economic Services Section

DP/sac
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