

PPER Email 2014-9: Preliminary Changes to Heat and Eat (3/19/2014)

The Farm Bill of 2014 requires States participating in the Heat and Eat (H-EAT) Program to increase the amount of fuel assistance benefits provided to eligible SNAP households to greater than \$20 effective March 10, 2014. This ended the existing H-EAT Program.

On the evening of March 7, 2014, DTA/MIS ran a batch job that provided 13,602 eligible households H-EAT benefits under the existing program (\$1 H-EAT benefit). SNAP benefits for these households were calculated with the Heating/Cooling SUA on March 12, 2014 to impact April's benefits. A narrative was added to BEACON, and an EBC notice was sent to households who had a change in benefits.

In April, there will be no SNAP households selected for a H-EAT run. SNAP households that already participate in H-EAT will continue to receive the Heating/Cooling SUA. Additional information about the H-EAT Program will be provided in the near future.

To view the press release issued by Governor Patrick on March 18, 2014, click this link:

<http://www.mass.gov/governor/pressoffice/pressreleases/2014/0318-governor-announces-steps-to-preserve-snap-benefits.html>