

Sub Section 3.07.01: Categorical Eligibility

Supplemental Security Income

A household is categorically eligible for WAP assistance if, at the time of the application, that household receives Code A Supplemental Security Income (SSI Living Alone).

Acceptable Documentation: Award letter; copy of SSI check; Report of Confidential Social Security Benefits Information form (SSA#2458).

Public Assistance

A household is categorically eligible for WAP assistance if, at the time of application, any member of that household receives Safety Net or Family Assistance benefits. Applicants who pay their own heat or are on voucher fuel payment and have high fuel bills will have priority over applicants who have heat included in their rent.

Acceptable Documentation: Interagency Referral completed by an LDSS; an LDSS computerized printout received by recipient when re-certified; LDSS monthly budget worksheet with date, signature, and job title of LDSS personnel; LDSS Letter of Eligibility; in New York City multiple-dwelling units, a building printout by address from the New York City Human Resources Administration, copy of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card with a current debit purchase receipt.

Food Stamps

A household is categorically eligible for WAP assistance if, at the time of application, at least one member of that household is receiving recurring Non-public Assistance (NPA) Food Stamps.

Acceptable Documentation: Letter or notice from LDSS stating that the household has been determined eligible. A food stamp identification card alone is not sufficient documentation.

Categorical eligibility does not apply to NPA food stamp recipients in the following living situations: individuals temporarily housed in a hotel or motel, residents of congregate care facilities such as nursing homes and intermediate care facilities, and residents of shelters.

HEAP - Regular Benefits

A household is categorically eligible for WAP assistance if, at the time of application, the household has received or been notified that they are eligible to receive the regular HEAP benefit for the current HEAP Annual Heating Season which runs from November through March of the following year. Receipt of Emergency HEAP benefits and any associated change in eligibility for those benefits does not qualify an applicant for categorical eligibility for WAP.

Acceptable Documentation: Letter or **Interagency Referral Form** from the LDSS, a local office for the aging, or a HEAP alternative certified stating that the household has been determined eligible for HEAP regular benefits. To be categorically eligible, an applicant or household must have already applied for and been determined eligible for HEAP regular benefits. Persons who have not yet applied for HEAP benefits must either be income-eligible or apply for WAP after their HEAP regular benefits eligibility status has been established.

Households Residing in Certain HUD- or USDA-assisted Multi-family Buildings

If a multi-unit building is regulated under an assisted or public housing program and has been designated as income-eligible for the purposes of the WAP by HUD pursuant to the procedure set forth in DOE Program Notice WPN-22-5, then that building shall be considered to meet the income-eligibility requirements of the WAP and also one or both of the HCR procedural requirements to protect against rent increases and undue enhancement of the value of the weatherized building, without the need for further evaluation or verification. WAP Memorandum 099, issued November 9, 2022, further extended categorical eligibility to USDA-identified buildings that meet DOE income eligibility requirements as not requiring further verification.

For buildings funded with an allocation of Low-income (housing) Tax Credits, and which are not also regulated by HUD or USDA as stated above, the subgrantee must verify the incomes of each household residing in the building, following the procedures described elsewhere in this chapter.