

P-2914 CALCULATION OF BENEFITS (continued)

P-2914C Types of Benefits (Seasonal Fuel Assistance Rule 2914(c)) (7/1/25, 25-16)

\$21 Benefits

This benefit covers three groups of people:

- People who have heat included in their subsidized rent.
- People who rent a room.
- People who receive 3SquaresVT benefit but who did not apply for fuel assistance or were not eligible.*

*If a client is approved for 3SquaresVT, and the client pays for heat or air conditioning (in UTIL panel 01), that client will **NOT** get a \$21 benefit. The client must apply for fuel assistance to get any benefit.

These households will receive a \$21 benefit from the State, referred to as “Heat and Eat,” primarily so that people receiving 3SquaresVT benefits can receive the maximum Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) in their budget. This benefit is issued once every 12 months. If a client already receives fuel assistance, then the client will not get a “Heat and Eat” benefit because the person already receives the maximum SUA.

Under federal law, any client who receives more than \$20 or more in fuel assistance per year is eligible for the full SUA. Therefore, until the law changes, there will never be an active 3SquaresVT case that does not have the full SUA.

Heated Renters

This benefit is for people who live in unsubsidized housing and whose heat is included in their rent. These people get 30% of what they would have received if they were responsible for heating costs.

This is a cash benefit that goes on the household’s EBT card or is electronically deposited directly into their bank account. These benefits are disbursed in December or at the time of approval if the application is approved after the mid-December disbursement. EBT cash ages off after 90 days; contact the fuel team for review if the client requests that ESD return the funds to the card.

Wood and Pellet Users

This benefit is for people who heat with either wood or pellets. These benefits are issued as cash either to their EBT card or direct deposited into their bank. EBT cash ages off after 90 days; contact the fuel team for review if the client requests that ESD return the funds to the card.

Wood and pellet benefits usually go out in the summer, and a second benefit run happens in late September to catch households that are now active but weren't previously issued a fuel benefit. If a fuel assistance application is approved after the September disbursement, benefits will be issued at the time of approval. Wood and pellet benefits are issued earlier in the heating season to allow household to purchase and dry wood before the winter months.

Fuel Dealer Benefits

This benefit is for people who are responsible for their heating costs, and whose fuel type is not wood or pellets. This benefit must be used for the household's primary heating fuel type, such as kerosene, oil, coal, propane, natural gas, or electricity to heat their homes. These benefits are issued as an EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) directly to the household's fuel dealer or energy supplier. These benefits **MUST** be issued by November 30th or at the time of approval if the application is approved after the November disbursement.