

Program: HEAP Fuel Assistance	MHPN # 2024-HEAP-001
Action: Dwelling Unit Waivers	Effective Date: 1/25/2024
Issued by: MaineHousing, Energy and Housing Services	Expired Date:

This MaineHousing Notice is being issued to provide information regarding waivers for Dwelling Units.

1. Dwelling Unit Waivers

We have recently been notified about a social media post which is misleading for Households seeking HEAP assistance. The post on Facebook and Instagram state that "...HEAP rules won't allow heating assistance if you live in a mobile home or camper."

MaineHousing's Home Energy Assistance Program Rule (the "Rule"), Chapter 24, does allow for mobile home residents to apply for HEAP as mobile homes are considered an eligible Dwelling Unit.

According to the Rule a Dwelling Unit does not include a camper, boat, railroad car, bus, yurt or other structure designed and constructed to provide temporary living quarters. Camper is defined within the Rule to mean "... a trailer, semitrailer, truck camper, or motor home primarily designed and originally constructed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use regardless of modification(s) or length." Campers are not Dwelling Units because they are primarily designed and originally constructed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational use. See also, 36 M.R.S. § 1481; 36 M.R.S. § 1752; 29-A M.R.S. §101 and 10 M.R.S. §1432.

Regardless of modifications, the underlying design of a camper, when it was originally constructed, was temporary and recreational in nature. This does not meet the statutory definition of Dwelling Unit under Maine law. See 22 M.R.S. § 1315; 12 M.R.S. §682; 30-A M.R.S. §4401; and 36 M.R.S. §5219-II. Therefore, a camper and any other structure designed and constructed to provide temporary living quarters cannot be considered a Dwelling Unit for purposes of the Home Energy Assistance Program.

MaineHousing has reviewed the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Rule in conjunction with State law and determined that under no circumstances should a camper be considered a Dwelling Unit. As a result, we will no longer grant waivers for campers or other structures designed and constructed to provide temporary living quarters in accordance with the HEAP Rule and Maine law. This guidance is consistent with other MaineHousing programs.

We have provided this information to the organization and asked that they correct or remove the post.

2. Notice Contact

Genevieve Soucy, Director Energy and Housing Services ▪ liheap@mainehousing.org

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*Lauren Bustard, Maine State Housing Authority, 26 Edison Drive, Augusta, Maine 04330,
 Telephone Number 1-800-452-4668 (voice in state only), (207) 626-4600 (voice) or Maine Relay 711.*

