were provided from the grantee's Federal LIHEAP allotment.

We amended criterion (iii) as follows: The grantee appropriated or mandated the resource/benefits for distribution to low-income households as described in its LIHEAP plan \* \* \*. The resource/ benefits are provided to low-income households as a supplement and/or alternative to the grantee's LIHEAP program, outside (that is, not through, within, or as a part of) the LIHEAP program. The resource/benefits are integrated and coordinated with the grantee's LIHEAP program. Before the end of the base period, the plan identifies and describes the resource/ benefits, their source(s), and their integration/coordination with the LIHĚAP program.

The Department will determine resources/benefits to be integrated and coordinated with the LIHEAP program if they meet at least one of the following eight conditions. If a resource meets at least one of conditions A through F when the grantee's LIHEAP program is operating (and meets all other applicable requirements), the resource also is countable when the LIHEAP program is not operating.

(Å) For all households served by the resource, the assistance provided by the resource depends on and is determined by the assistance provided to these households by the grantee's LIHEAP program in the base period. The resource supplements LIHEAP assistance that was not sufficient to meet households' home energy needs, and the type and amount of assistance provided by the resource is directly affected by the LIHEAP assistance received by the households.

(B) Receipt of LIHEAP assistance in the base period is necessary to receive assistance from the resource. The resource serves only households that received LIHEAP assistance in the base period.

(C) Ineligibility for the grantee's LIHEAP program, or denial of LIHEAP assistance in the base period because of unavailability of LIHEAP funds, is necessary to receive assistance from the resource.

(D) For discounts and waivers: Eligibility for and/or receipt of assistance under the grantee's LIHEAP program in the base period, and/or eligibility under the Federal standards set by section 2605(b)(2) of Public Law 97–35 \* \* \* is necessary to receive the discount or waiver.

(E) During the period when the grantee's LIHEAP program is operating, staff of the grantee's LIHEAP program and/or staff assigned to the LIHEAP program by a local LIHEAP administering agency or agencies, and staff assigned to the resource communicate orally and/or in writing about how to meet the energy needs of specific, individual households. For the duration of the LIHEAP program, this communication takes place before assistance is provided to each household to be served by the resource, unless the applicant for assistance from the resource presents documentation of LIHEAP eligibility and/or the amount of LIHEAP assistance received or to be received.

(F) A written agreement between the grantee's LIHEAP program or local LIHEAP administering agency, and the agency administering the resource, specifies the following about the resource: eligibility criteria; benefit levels; period of operation; how the LIHEAP program and the resource are integrated/coordinated; and relationship between LIHEAP eligibility and/or benefit levels, and eligibility and/or benefit levels for the resource. The agreement provides for annual or more frequent reports to be provided to the LIHEAP program by the agency administering the resource.

(G) The resource accepts referrals from the grantee's LIHEAP program, and as long as the resource has benefits available, it provides assistance to all households that are referred by the LIHEAP program and that meet the resource's eligibility requirements. Under this condition, only the benefits provided to households referred by the LIHEAP program are countable. (H) Before the grantee's LIHEAP

(H) Before the grantee's LIHEAP heating, cooling, crisis, and/or weatherization assistance component(s) open and/or after the grantee's LIHEAP heating, cooling, crisis, and/or weatherization assistance component(s) close for the season or for the fiscal year, or before the entire LIHEAP program opens and/or after the entire LIHEAP program closes for the season or for the fiscal year, the resource is made available specifically to fill the gap caused by the absence of the LIHEAP component(s) or program. The resource is not available while the LIHEAP component(s) or program is operating.

## Additional Information

In order to be countable, a leveraged resource must meet the requirements under at least one of criteria (i), (ii), and (iii). A single resource cannot meet both criterion (ii) and criterion (iii), because a resource cannot be provided to lowincome households both as a part of the LIHEAP program (criterion (ii)), and not as a part of, but integrated with, the LIHEAP program (criterion (iii)). A resource countable under criterion (iii) must meet all of the requirements in the first part of the criterion, and at least one of the conditions demonstrating integration/coordination in the second part of the criterion.

In criterion (iii), conditions A through F describe acceptable circumstances of integration/coordination while the grantee's LIHEAP program is operating. If a resource meets at least one of these six conditions while the grantee's LIHEAP program is operating (as well as all other applicable requirements), the resource also is countable during the base period when the LIHEAP program is not operating. The circumstances described in a condition must apply to all assistance provided by the resource, and all households assisted by the resource, except for condition G. Condition G describes certain resources that accept referrals from the grantee's LIHEAP program. It is possible that some of the households served by a resource will not be referred to it by the LIHEAP program. Under condition G, benefits provided by certain resources to households that were referred by the LIHEAP program are countable, but benefits provided to households that were not referred by the LIHEAP program are not countable. Condition H describes certain resources made available specifically because the grantee's entire LIHEAP program has not yet opened or has closed, or because one or more components of the LIHEAP program have not yet opened or have closed.

If a grantee sets its LIHEAP income eligibility standard below the LIHEAP statute's maximum (for example, at 125 percent of the poverty level), it could count leveraged benefits provided to households with incomes between the State standard and the Federal maximum standard (the greater of 150 percent of the poverty level or 60 percent of State median income) under criterion (i) or criterion (iii), as long as the benefits meet all other requirements for leveraged resources as well. These criteria allow the counting of leveraged benefits that are provided to households with incomes up to the Federal maximum and to categorically eligible households, as described in section 2605(b)(2) of the LIHEAP statute, whether or not the grantee's LIHEAP program has more restrictive eligibility standards. Under criterion (ii), leveraged benefits must be provided through the grantee's LIHEAP program, to households eligible under the grantee's standards.