TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF

FROM: KEVIN M. MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RE: INCREASE IN UTILITY ALLOWANCES

PROGRAM AFFECTED: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY, RESEARCH AND SYSTEMS

SUMMARY:

Every year we review the utility allowances to determine if they should increase, decrease or stay the same. Based on the most recent Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Baltimore/ Washington area, the standard and limited utility allowances will increase. The telephone allowance will remain the same.

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

Effective January 1, 2005 the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) will increase to $275 per month. The Limited Utility Allowance (LUA) will increase to $166 per month. CARES supports the increases.

We have attached updated Food Stamp Manual pages.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct food stamp policy questions to Rick McClendon at 410-767-7307 or Kay Finegan at 410-767-7939.

cc: FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHR Help Desk