



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

Family Investment Administration
ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: # 05-14

Effective Date: January 1, 2005

Issuance Date November 22, 2004

**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.

ACTION 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