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 AND DECREASE IN
   TELEPHONE ALLOWANCE

PROGRAM AFFECTED: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

SUMMARY:

Every year we review the utility and telephone 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. A recent survey of telephone service providers indicates that phone rates
have gone down again this year. The telephone allowance will decrease.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Effective January 1, 2006:

➢ The Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) will increase to $304 per month.
➢ The Limited Utility Allowance (LUA) will increase to $183 per month.
➢ The telephone allowance will decrease to $25.

CARES will be modified on December 3, 2005 to support these changes.

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 and systems questions to Sarah Haygood at 410-767-5054.

cc: FIA Management Staff
    Constituent Services
    DHR Help Desk