



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

Family Investment Administration
ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: # 06-22

Effective Date: January 1, 2006

Issuance Date November 30, 2005

**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