



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number 07-06

Effective Date: October 1, 2006

Issuance Date:

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS/CASE MANAGERS**

FROM: KEVIN M. MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**RE: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM AND TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE
MASS CHANGES - OCTOBER 2006**

**PROGRAM AFFECTED: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM AND TEMPORARY CASH
ASSISTANCE**

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

SUMMARY:

Each August, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) publishes the updated Thrifty Food Plan, which determines the maximum food stamp allotments. The USDA also publishes the new income standards for the year. The income standards, the maximum food stamp allotments, standard deductions and excess shelter deduction have increased. The homeless shelter deduction did not change.

TCA grants will also increase effective October 1, 2006. The attached tables show the increases for Food Stamps and TCA. The attached Food Stamp manual pages also contain the updates for October 1st.

CARES automatically generates all customer notices for increases and decreases at the time of the mass change. The mass modification should take place on September 9, 2006.

ACTION REQUIRED:

I. TCA

Apply the increased payment amounts effective October 1, 2006. Use the new payment amounts for financial eligibility decisions made in September for October grants. This includes interim changes, recertification and recoupment cases.

II. FOOD STAMPS

Food stamp benefit and new recoupment amounts do not require action by the case manager. The only exceptions are recoupment cases when the payment plan source is grant reduction (GR) or court order (CO). CARES generates a report identifying these cases. You must manually update these cases.

FOOD STAMP CHANGES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2006

- The Food Stamp Program excess shelter deduction increases to **\$417**.
- The standard deductions increase to:
 - HH 1-3 \$134
 - HH 4 \$139
 - HH 5 \$162
 - HH 6+ \$186
- The homeless shelter deduction **remains at \$143**. Households in which all members are homeless, but who do not receive free shelter, qualify for the standard homeless shelter deduction of \$143.
 Note: Use actual shelter expenses, rather than the homeless shelter deduction, if the actual shelter costs result in an excess shelter deduction that is higher than the \$143 homeless deduction.
- The changes to the income standards include the following revisions:

Household Size	Maximum Gross Monthly Income* 130% of Poverty	Maximum Net Monthly Income* 100% of Poverty	Monthly Income Elderly/Disabled Separate Household* 165% of Poverty	Maximum Allotment
	Col. A	Col. B	Col. C	Col. D
1	\$1062	\$ 817	\$1348	\$ 155
2	1430	1100	1815	284
3	1799	1384	2283	408
4	2167	1667	2750	518
5	2535	1950	3218	615
6	2904	2234	3685	738
7	3272	2517	4153	816
8	3640	2800	4620	932
Each Additional Member	+369	+284	+468	+117

- Please replace previous Food Stamp manual pages with the attached manual pages.

We will post the entire Basis of Issuance tables on the FIPNET.

TCA CHANGES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2006

The attached FIP Schedule and Schedule R show the increase in the TCA grant amounts and in the TCA recoupment amounts. The federal poverty level also increased as of April 1, 2006.

PAYMENT ACCURACY

The changes should not affect payment accuracy. However, local departments using the manual food stamp calculation work sheets should make adjustments for the new standard deductions for calculations effective October 1, 2006.

ACTION DUE:

The new standards and benefits are effective October 1, 2006.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct Food Stamp policy inquiries or requests for an electronic copy of the Basis of Issuance Tables to Kay Finegan at 410-767-7939 or Rick McClendon at 410-767-7307. Direct TCA policy questions to Marilyn Lorenzo at 410-767-7333 or Gretchen Simpson at 410-767-7937.

Attachments:

- I. FIP Schedule
- II. Schedule R
- III. Food Stamp Manual Section 600 Pages 1 & 2

cc: FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHR Help Desk

F I P S C H E D U L E**Monthly Allowable Amounts Paid**

Effective: October 1, 2006

A	B	C
Family Size	Allowable Payment	50 % Poverty Level
1	\$ 247	\$ 408
2	433	550
3	549	692
4	664	833
5	769	975
6	846	1117
7	951	1258
8	1047	1400
9	1130	1542
10	1222	1683
11	1333	1825
12	1395	1967
13	1481	2108
14	1567	2250
15	1657	2392
16	1765	2533
Each Person More Than 16	Add \$ 116	Add \$ 142

"50% Poverty Level" reflects Federal Poverty Levels effective April 1, 2006

SCHEDULE - R

Effective: October 1, 2006

A	B	C	D
Family Size	Allowable Payment	90 %	Available Recoupment
1	\$ 247	\$222	\$ 25
2	433	390	43
3	549	494	55
4	664	598	66
5	769	692	77
6	846	761	85
7	951	856	95
8	1,047	942	105
9	1,130	1,017	113
10	1,222	1,100	122
11	1,333	1,200	133
12	1,395	1,255	139
13	1,481	1,333	148
14	1,567	1,410	157
15	1,657	1,491	166
16	1,765	1,588	176
Each Person More Than 16	Add \$ 116	Calculate 90% of Col. - B	Calculate 10% of Col. - B

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION	FOOD STAMP MANUAL	
STANDARDS FOR INCOME AND DEDUCTIONS	Section 600	Page 1

600.1 STANDARDS FOR ELIGIBILITY AND MAXIMUM ALLOTMENTS

- A. The standards for the following appear in Section 600, page 2.
1. Column A - Maximum Gross Monthly Income Standards (130% of poverty)
 2. Column B - Maximum Net Monthly Income Standards (100% of poverty)
 3. Column C - Maximum Gross Income Standard for Elderly and Disabled Separate Household (165% of poverty)
 4. Column D - Thrifty Food Plan/Maximum Allotment
- B. Standards 1, 2, and 3 are used to determine household eligibility and not for computing allotments.

600.2 FORMULA CALCULATION

- A. Multiply the household's net monthly income by 30%.
- B. Round the product up to the next whole dollar if any cents result.
- C. Subtract the product from the maximum allotment amount for the household size found in Column D, Section 600.

NOTE: In an initial month, if the allotment is less than \$10, no benefit is issued. Except in an initial month, all eligible one and two person households must be issued the minimum allotment of \$10.

600.3 DEDUCTION STANDARDS

Standard Deduction	
Household size up to and including 3 people-----	\$134
Household of 4-----	\$139
Household size of 5-----	\$162
Household size of 6 or more-----	\$186
Excess Shelter Deduction-----	up to \$417
Homeless Household Shelter Allowance-----	\$143
Dependent Care (child or elderly or disabled adult)	
For each dependent child under age 2-----	up to \$200
For each dependent age 2 and over-----	up to \$175
Standard Utility Allowance (SUA)-----	\$304
Limited Utility Allowance (LUA)-----	\$183
Telephone Standard-----	\$ 25

- * The excess shelter deduction does not apply to households with an aged or disabled member. These households receive an uncapped shelter deduction.

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600.4 Determining the Food Stamp Allotment

A. Determine a household's monthly food stamp allotment by using the Basis of Issuance Tables:

1. Calculate the household's net monthly income.
2. Compare the household's net monthly income to the maximum net monthly income standard, Column B below. Households that are not categorically eligible for food stamps will have net monthly incomes that are lower than or equal to the amounts shown in Column B.
3. Find the allotment by reading in the Basis of Issuance Tables, down to the appropriate income and across to the appropriate household size.

NOTE: A household that is categorically eligible is entitled to any allotment shown in the appropriate column on the tables. Persons in household sizes of one or two and categorically eligible are eligible for a benefit of \$10, even if the tables do not show a benefit amount at their net income levels.

Household Size	Maximum Gross Monthly Income* 130% of Poverty Col. A	Maximum Net Monthly Income* 100% of Poverty Col. B	Monthly Income Elderly/Disabled Separate Household* 165% of Poverty Col. C	Maximum Allotment Col. D
1	\$1062	\$ 817	\$1348	\$ 155
2	1430	1100	1815	284
3	1799	1384	2283	408
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8	3640	2800	4620	932
Each Additional Member	+369	+284	+468	+117

* Maximum gross and net monthly income figures are not used for computing the food stamp allotment. They are included as a reference for determining the household's eligibility.