



Department of Human Resources  
311 West Saratoga Street  
Baltimore MD 21201

Family Investment Administration  
**ACTION TRANSMITTAL**

Control Number: # 08-18

Effective Date: January 1, 2008

Issuance Date: December 11, 2007

**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 INCREASE 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 up this year. The telephone allowance will increase slightly.

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

Effective **January 1, 2008:**

- The Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) will increase to \$371 per month.
- The Limited Utility Allowance (LUA) will increase to \$224 per month.
- The telephone allowance will increase to \$35.

CARES will be modified on December 9, 2007 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 Delorise Gallop 410-767-8735.

cc: FIA Management Staff  
Constituent Services  
DHR Help Desk