



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number #09-13

Effective Date: October 1, 2008

Issuance Date: September 14, 2008

**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 SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM (FSP) AND TEMPORARY CASH
ASSISTANCE (TCA) MASS CHANGES – OCTOBER 2008**

**PROGRAMS AFFECTED: FOOD SUPPLEMENT 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 supplement allotments. The USDA also publishes the new income standards for the year. The income standards, the maximum food supplement allotments, standard deductions and excess shelter deduction have increased. The homeless shelter deduction did not change.

This year, because of the federal Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, the minimum allotment has increased to \$14 and the dependent care deduction cap was removed.

TCA grants will also increase effective October 1, 2008. The attached tables show the increases for FSP and TCA. The attached FSP 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 13, 2008.

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

I. TCA

Apply the increased payment amounts effective October 1, 2008. 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 SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM

Food supplement 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. Local departments will be sent this report right after the migration. You must manually update these cases.

FOOD SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM CHANGES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

➤ The FSP excess shelter deduction increases to **\$446**.

➤ The standard deductions increase to:

- HH 1-3 \$144
- HH 4 \$147
- HH 5 \$172
- HH 6+ \$197

➤ 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:

	Col. A	Col. B	Col. C	Col. D
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
1	\$1127	\$ 867	\$1430	\$176
2	1517	1167	1925	323
3	1907	1467	2420	463
4	2297	1767	2915	588
5	2687	2067	3410	698
6	3077	2367	3905	838
7	3467	2667	4400	926
8	3857	2967	4895	1058
Each Additional Member	+390	+300	+495	+132

- Please replace previous Food Supplement Program manual pages with the attached manual pages.

TCA CHANGES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2008

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, 2008.

PAYMENT ACCURACY

The changes should not affect payment accuracy. However, local departments using the manual food supplement calculation worksheets should make adjustments for the new standard deductions for calculations effective October 1, 2008

ACTION DUE:

The new standards and benefits are effective October 1, 2008.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct Food Supplement Program 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 Supplement Program Manual Section 600 Pages 1 & 2

cc: FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHR Help Desk

FIP SCHEDULE**Monthly Allowable Amounts Paid**

Effective: October 1, 2008

A	B	C
Family Size	Allowable Payment	50 % Poverty Level
1	\$ 259	\$ 433
2	453	583
3	574	733
4	695	883
5	805	1033
6	885	1183
7	995	1333
8	1095	1483
9	1182	1633
10	1278	1783
11	1394	1933
12	1459	2083
13	1549	2233
14	1639	2383
15	1733	2533
16	1846	2683
Each Person More Than 16	Add \$ 109	Add \$ 150

"50% Poverty Level" reflects Federal Poverty Levels effective April 1, 2008

SCHEDULE - R

Effective: October 1, 2008

A	B	C	D
Family Size	Allowable Payment	90 %	Available Recoupment
1	\$ 259	234	\$ 26
2	453	408	45
3	574	517	57
4	695	626	70
5	805	725	81
6	885	797	89
7	995	896	100
8	1095	986	110
9	1182	1064	118
10	1278	115	128
11	1394	1254	140
12	1459	1313	146
13	1549	1394	154
14	1639	1475	164
15	1733	1559	174
16	1846	1661	185
Each Person More Than 16	Add \$ 109	Calculate 90% of Col. - B	Calculate 10% of Col. - B

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION	FOOD SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM 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 \$14.

600.3 DEDUCTION STANDARDS

Standard Deduction	
Household size up to and including 3 people-----	\$144
Household of 4-----	\$147
Household size of 5-----	\$172
Household size of 6 or more-----	\$197
Excess Shelter Deduction-----up to	\$446
Homeless Household Shelter Allowance-----	\$143
Standard Utility Allowance (SUA)-----	\$371
Limited Utility Allowance (LUA)-----	\$224
Telephone Standard-----	\$35

- * 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 Supplement Program Allotment

A. Determine a household's monthly food supplement 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 supplements 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 **\$14**, even if the tables do not show a benefit amount at their net income levels.

	Col. A	Col. B	Col. C	Col. D
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
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* Maximum gross and net monthly income figures are not used for computing the food supplement allotment. They are included as a reference for determining the household's eligibility.