



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: #02-20

Effective Date: October 1, 2001

Issuance Date: September 21, 2001

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

FROM: CHARLES HENRY, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**RE: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE AND FOOD STAMP MASS
CHANGE - OCTOBER 2001**

PROGRAM AFFECTED: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE and FOOD STAMPS

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY, RESEARCH AND SYSTEMS

SUMMARY:

Each October, the United States Department of Agriculture publishes a new Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) on which food stamp program allotments are based. The net and gross monthly income standards increase effective October 1, 2001. The maximum food stamp allotments and excess shelter deduction also increase. The standard deduction and homeless shelter allowance are unchanged.

The Welfare Innovation Act of 1996 requires that the total of Temporary Cash Assistance and Food Stamps be at least 61 percent of the established Minimum Living Level. The established minimum living level for Federal Fiscal Year 2002 is \$1,356 for a family of three. On October 1, 2001 a 7.5 percent payment increase for Temporary Cash Assistance applicants and recipients is in effect. The key dates for actions related to the benefit increase for this program are noted below.

ACTION REQUIRED:

The mass change will run September 9, 2001. Customer notices for increases or decreases will be generated at the time of mass change. All grant changes and new recoupment amounts require no action by the case manager. The only exceptions are recoupment cases where the payment plan source is grant reduction (GR) or court order (CO). These cases must be updated manually. A report identifying these cases has been distributed.

I. TCA

- Implementation of the 7.5% Payment Increase

1. Apply the increased payment amounts effective October 1, 2001.
2. Use the new payment amounts for financial eligibility decisions made in September for October grants. This includes interim changes, recertifications and recoupment cases.

II. FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

- The Food Stamp Program excess shelter cap increases to \$354.
- Many food stamp allotment amounts will be reduced as a result of the increase in TCA grants.
- The standard deduction will remain at \$134.
- The homeless shelter allowance will remain at \$143. Households in which all members are homeless but are not receiving free shelter are entitled to the standard homeless shelter allowance of \$143. Allow actual shelter expenses, instead of the homeless shelter allowance, if the actual shelter costs would be higher under the excess shelter calculation.
- The changes to the income standards include the following revisions which are effective October 1, 2001:

	Maximum Gross Monthly Income* 130% of Poverty	Maximum Net Monthly Income* 100% Of Poverty	Monthly Income Elderly/Disabled Separate HH* 165% of Poverty	Maximum Allotment Thrifty Food Plan
HH Size	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D
1	\$ 931	\$ 716	\$1,182	\$ 135
2	1,258	968	1,597	248
3	1,585	1,220	2,012	356
4	1,913	1,471	2,427	452
5	2,240	1,723	2,843	537
6	2,567	1,975	3,258	644
7	2,894	2,226	3,673	712
8	3,221	2,478	4,088	814
Each Additional Member +	328	+252	+416	+102

* 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.

III. ATTACHMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS

- The FIP Schedule (Attachment 1) and Schedule R (Attachment 2) are attached for your information.
- Revised food stamp manual pages are also attached. Please replace previous manual pages with these attachments.
- Basis of Issuance Tables will be distributed separately.

ACTION DUE:

Effective October 1, 2001.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct TCA policy inquiries to Edna McAbier at 410.767.7495, Food Stamp policy inquires to Kay Finegan at 410.767.7939 and Systems inquiries to Theresa Holmes 410.238.1303.

Attachments: FIP Schedule
Schedule R
Food Stamp Manual Section 600 Pages 1 & 2

cc: DHR Executive Staff
FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHR Help Desk

FIP SCHEDULE**Monthly Allowable Amounts Paid**

Effective: October 1, 2001

A	B	C
Family Size	Allowable Payment	50 % Poverty Level
1	\$210	\$358
2	372	484
3	472	610
4	570	735
5	660	861
6	726	987
7	817	1,113
8	899	1,239
9	970	1,365
10	1,045	1,490
11	1,123	1,616
12	1,198	1,742
13	1,273	1,868
14	1,346	1,994
15	1,424	2,120
16	\$1,515	\$2,245
Each Person More Than 16	Add \$ 78	Add \$ 126

"50% Poverty Level" reflects Federal Poverty Levels effective April 1, 2001

SCHEDULE - R

Effective: October 1, 2001

A	B	C	D
Family Size	Allowable Payment	90 %	Available Recoupment
1	\$210	\$ 189	\$ 21
2	372	335	37
3	472	425	47
4	570	513	57
5	660	594	66
6	726	654	72
7	817	736	81
8	899	810	89
9	970	873	97
10	1,045	941	104
11	1,123	1,011	112
12	1,198	1,079	119
13	1,273	1,146	127
14	1,346	1,212	134
15	1,424	1,282	142
16	\$1,515	\$ 1,364	\$ 151
Each Person More Than 16	Add \$ 78	Calculate 90% of Col. - B	Calculate 10% of Col. - B

NOTE: When a family receiving Food Stamps is also subject to recoupment, a "double" adjustment applies to the determination of income to be used in the Food Stamp computation.