



Department of Human Resources  
311 West Saratoga Street  
Baltimore MD 21201

Family Investment Administration  
**ACTION TRANSMITTAL**

Control Number: #04-15

Effective Date: January 1, 2004

Issuance Date: December 19, 2003

**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 THE UTILITY AND TELEPHONE ALLOWANCES**

**PROGRAM AFFECTED: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM**

**ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY, RESEARCH AND SYSTEMS**

**SUMMARY:**

Every year we review the utility 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 and the telephone allowance will increase.

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

Effective **January 1, 2004** the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) will increase to \$262 per month. The Limited Utility Allowance (LUA) will increase to \$158 per month. The telephone allowance will increase from \$26 to **\$30 per month**. CARES supports the increases.

We have attached updated Food Stamp Manual pages.

**INQUIRIES:**

Please refer Food Stamp policy questions to Marilyn Lorenzo at 410-767-7333 or Kay Finegan at 410-767-7939.

cc: FIA Management Staff  
Constituent Services  
DHR Help Desk