



Department of Human Resources  
311 West Saratoga Street  
Baltimore MD 21201

## FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number #08-08

Effective Date: October 1, 2007

Issuance Date: September 14, 2007

**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 2007**

**PROGRAMS 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, 2007. The attached tables show the increases for Food Stamps and TCA. The attached Food Stamp manual pages also contain the updates for October 1<sup>st</sup>.

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 8, 2007.

### **ACTIONS REQUIRED:**

#### **I. TCA**

Apply the increased payment amounts effective October 1, 2007. 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, 2007

➤ The Food Stamp Program excess shelter deduction increases to **\$417**.

➤ The standard deductions increase to:

- HH 1-3 \$134
- HH 4 \$143
- HH 5 \$167
- HH 6+ \$191

➤ 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	\$1107	\$ 851	\$1404	\$162
2	1484	1141	1883	298
3	1861	1431	2361	426
4	2238	1721	2840	542
5	2615	2011	3318	643
6	2992	2301	3797	772
7	3369	2591	4275	853
8	3746	2881	4754	975
Each Additional Member	+377	+290	+479	+122

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

### **TCA CHANGES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2007**

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, 2007.

### **PAYMENT ACCURACY**

The changes should not affect payment accuracy. However, local departments using the manual food stamp calculation worksheets should make adjustments for the new standard deductions for calculations effective October 1, 2007

### **ACTION DUE:**

The new standards and benefits are effective October 1, 2007.

### **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

**FIP SCHEDULE****Monthly Allowable Amounts Paid**

Effective: October 1, 2007

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>Family Size</b>	<b>Allowable Payment</b>	<b>50 % Poverty Level</b>
1	\$ 255	\$ 425
2	446	570
3	565	715
4	684	860
5	792	1005
6	871	1150
7	979	1295
8	1078	1440
9	1163	1585
10	1258	1730
11	1372	1875
12	1436	2020
13	1525	2165
14	1613	2310
15	1706	2455
16	1817	2600
Each Person More Than 16	Add \$ 98	Add \$ 290

"50% Poverty Level" reflects Federal Poverty Levels effective April 1, 2007

**SCHEDULE - R**

Effective: October 1, 2007

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Family Size</b>	<b>Allowable Payment</b>	<b>90 %</b>	<b>Available Recoupment</b>
1	\$ 255	\$230	\$ 25
2	446	401	45
3	565	509	56
4	684	616	68
5	792	713	79
6	871	784	87
7	979	881	98
8	1078	970	108
9	1163	1047	116
10	1258	1132	126
11	1372	1235	137
12	1436	1292	144
13	1525	1373	152
14	1613	1452	161
15	1706	1535	171
16	1817	1635	182
Each Person More Than 16	Add \$ 98	Calculate 90% of Col. - B	Calculate 10% of Col. - B

<b>DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>FOOD STAMP MANUAL</b>	
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-----	\$143
Household size of 5-----	\$167
Household size of 6 or more-----	\$191

Excess Shelter Deduction-----	up to \$431
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)-----	\$327
Limited Utility Allowance (LUA)-----	\$197
Telephone Standard-----	\$29

- \* 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.

	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	\$1107	\$ 851	\$1404	\$162
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Each Additional Member	+377	+290	+479	+122

\* 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.