



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

Family Investment Administration
ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: # 09-23

Effective Date: January 1, 2009

Issuance Date: December 2, 2008

**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 SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM (FSP)

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, 2009:**

- The Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) will increase to \$414 per month.
- The Limited Utility Allowance (LUA) will increase to \$250 per month.
- The telephone allowance will increase to \$37.

CARES will be modified on December 6, 2008 to support these changes.

We have attached updated Food Supplement Program Manual pages.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct FSP policy questions to Rick McClendon at 410-767-7307 or Kay Finegan at 410-767-7939 and systems questions to Delorice Gallop 410-767-9735.

cc: FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHR Help Desk

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)-----	\$414
Limited Utility Allowance (LUA)-----	\$250
Telephone Standard-----	\$37

* 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 (FSP) Allotment

A. Determine a household's monthly FSP 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 FSP benefits 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
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

* Maximum gross and net monthly income figures are not used for computing the FSP allotment. They are included as a reference for determining the household's eligibility.