

Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

Family Investment Administration
ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: # 14-07

Effective Date: January 1, 2014

Issuance Date: December 4, 2013

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

FROM:  ROSEMARY MALONE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RE: INCREASE IN UTILITY ALLOWANCE

PROGRAM AFFECTED: FOOD SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM (FSP)

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

SUMMARY:

The Family Investment Administration (FIA) each year reviews 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. The telephone allowance will also increase.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Effective January 1, 2014:

- The Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) will increase to \$406 per month.
- The Limited Utility Allowance (LUA) will increase to \$246 per month.
- The telephone allowance will increase to \$40.

CARES will be modified the in December, 2013 to support the changes effective January 1, 2014.

Attached is the updated Section 600 of the Food Supplement Program Manual.

INQUIRIES:

Please direct FSP policy questions to Rick McClendon at 410-767-7307 and systems questions to Gwen Frazier 410-767-7318 or Randy Graybeal 410-767-7683.

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

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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 \$15.

600.3 DEDUCTION STANDARDS

Standard Deduction	
Household size up to and including 3 people-----	\$152
Household of 4-----	\$163
Household size of 5-----	\$191
Household size of 6 or more-----	\$219
Excess Shelter Deduction-----up to	\$478
Homeless Household Shelter Allowance-----	\$143
Standard Utility Allowance (SUA)-----	\$406
Limited Utility Allowance (LUA)-----	\$246
Telephone Standard-----	\$40

* 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 **\$15**, 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	\$1245	\$ 958	\$1580	\$189
2	1681	1293	2133	347
3	2116	1628	2686	497
4	2552	1963	3239	632
5	2987	2298	3791	750
6	3423	2633	4344	900
7	3858	2968	4897	995
8	4294	3303	5450	1137
Each Additional Member	+436	+335	+553	+142

* 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.