

Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

**Family Investment Administration
ACTION TRANSMITTAL**

Control Number: # #15-15

Effective Date: January 1, 2015

Issuance Date: November 25, 2014

**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: DECREASE 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 decrease. The telephone allowance will remain the same.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Effective January 1, 2015:

- **The Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) will decrease from \$406 to \$402 per month.**
- **The Limited Utility Allowance (LUA) will decrease from \$246 to \$245 per month.**
- **The telephone allowance will remain \$40.**

The new allowances will migrate in CARES in December, 2014 to support the changes effective January 1, 2015.

We have attached 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.

c: DHR Executive Staff
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 \$15.

600.3 DEDUCTION STANDARDS

Standard Deduction	
Household size up to and including 3 people-----	\$155
Household of 4-----	\$165
Household size of 5-----	\$193
Household size of 6 or more-----	\$221
Excess Shelter Deduction-----up to	\$490
Homeless Household Shelter Allowance-----	\$143
Standard Utility Allowance (SUA)-----	\$402
Limited Utility Allowance (LUA)-----	\$245
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.