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TO: **Economic Support Supervisors
Economic Support Lead Workers
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators
W-2 Agencies
Workforce Development Boards
Job Center Leads and Managers**

FROM: Amy Mendel-Clemens
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BEM/DWS OPERATIONS MEMO					
No:	05-30				
DATE:	08/24/2005				
FS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input type="checkbox"/>	SC	<input type="checkbox"/>
CTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	CC	<input type="checkbox"/>	W-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
FSET	<input type="checkbox"/>	EA	<input type="checkbox"/>	CF	<input type="checkbox"/>
JAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	JC	<input type="checkbox"/>	RAP	<input type="checkbox"/>
WIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	EP	<input type="checkbox"/>	★
PRIORITY: HIGH					

SUBJECT: **2006 FOODSHARE PROGRAM MASS CHANGE**

CROSS REFERENCE: FoodShare Handbook, Chapter 8.1.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2005

PURPOSE

This memo announces the FoodShare (FS) cost of living adjustments (COLA) and the new standard utility amounts (SUA) for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2006.

BACKGROUND

Each year the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) adjusts the gross and net income limits, the allotment tables, standard deduction amounts, and the excess shelter expense deduction. Adjustments to the standard utility amounts (SUA) are based on statewide average utility costs.

NOTE ➤ Please note the increase in the utility standard amounts. The increase in the water and sewer amount is reflected in the higher SUA and limited utility allowance (LUA). This increase can be attributed to a new methodology we have adopted that is a more accurate reflection of utility costs in Wisconsin.

POLICY**FS COLA FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2006**

Reference table changes have been made in CARES, so that ongoing cases will use the new amounts effective October 1, 2005. The mass change will occur on September 3, 2005. The FS mass change will select all FS cases and process eligibility for October using the new reference table changes and standards. Eligibility determinations for FS for October 2005 and later will use the new amounts. These amounts are found in CARES tables TFST and TFEP. They will be added to Chapter 8.1 of the FS Handbook in the next release.

Following are changes effective October 1, 2005:

Income Limit & Allotment Changes

AG Size	200%FPL <u>Gross Income</u> Limit	165% FPL <u>Gross Income</u> Limit	130% FPL <u>Gross Income</u> Limit	100% FPL <u>Net Income</u> Limit	Maximum Allotment
1	\$ 1596	\$ 1316	\$ 1037	\$ 798	\$ 152
2	\$ 2140	\$ 1765	\$ 1390	\$ 1070	\$ 278
3	\$ 2682	\$ 2213	\$ 1744	\$ 1341	\$ 399
4	\$ 3226	\$ 2661	\$ 2097	\$ 1613	\$ 506
5	\$ 3770	\$ 3109	\$ 2450	\$ 1885	\$ 601
6	\$ 4312	\$ 3558	\$ 2803	\$ 2156	\$ 722
7	\$ 4856	\$ 4006	\$ 3156	\$ 2428	\$ 798
8	\$ 5400	\$ 4454	\$ 3509	\$ 2700	\$ 912
9	\$ 5944	\$ 4903	\$ 3863	\$ 2972	\$ 1026
10	\$ 6488	\$ 5352	\$ 4217	\$ 3244	\$ 1140
11	\$ 7032	\$ 5801	\$ 4571	\$ 3516	\$ 1254
12	\$ 7576	\$ 6250	\$ 4925	\$ 3788	\$ 1368

(AG = Assistance Group, FPL = Federal Poverty Level)

NOTE ➤ Notices of decision that impact reduced change reporting requirements will also be adjusted to reflect the new 130% FPL income reporting limits.

Standard Deduction

The Standard Deduction increase is based on the Assistance Group (AG) size.

AG Size	Standard Deduction Amount
1-4	\$134
5	\$157
6 or more	\$179

NOTE ➤ The following deductions will not change:

- Maximum monthly Dependent Care - \$200 for each child less than 2 years old
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\$175 for each child age 2 years and older.
- Medical Expenses – Monthly expenses over \$35 for elderly or disabled individuals only.

Maximum Excess Shelter Deduction

The maximum excess shelter deduction will increase to \$400.

New Standard Utility Allowances

Standard	Allowance	Definition
HSUA	\$303	Heating
LUA	\$195	No heat, with at least two other qualifying expenses
EUA	\$ 67	Non-heat electric
FUA	\$ 28	Cooking fuel used for other than heating, gas, LP, etc.
WUA	\$ 60	Water, well installation and maintenance, sewer, septic tank installation and maintenance, and/or wastewater treatment
PUA	\$ 25	Telephone
TUA	\$ 15	Garbage and trash pick up

PROCEDURE

Any cases that are run for FS eligibility after September 3, 2005 will have the new SUA standard amounts applied effective October 1, 2005.

OTHER PROGRAMS

There is no change in the shelter and utility budgeting for MA. Actual shelter and utility costs still need to be verified by the customer and entered into CARES to assure the correct MA eligibility and post eligibility determinations. See the MA Handbook for specific policy.

CONTACTS

BEM CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center