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

FROM: Amy Mendel-Clemens
Technical Assistance, Training & Education
Section
Bureau of Eligibility Management
Division of Health Care Financing

BEM/DWS OPERATIONS MEMO					
No:	06-25				
DATE:	06/02/2006				
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: **New FoodShare Standard Utility Allowance Mass Change**

CROSS REFERENCE: Food Stamp Handbook, Chapter 8.1.5

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

PURPOSE

This memo announces the new utility standard amounts for the FoodShare (FS) Program effective July 1, 2006.

BACKGROUND

Wisconsin recently received approval from the Food Nutrition Service (FNS) to increase our Standard Utility Allowances (SUA) to reflect increases in energy costs. Implementing these changes now positively impacts households that experienced high energy costs this past winter.

The changes will result in increases to our SUA from \$303 to \$327, the Electric Standard (EUA) from \$67 to \$75, and the Limited Utility Allowance (LUA) from \$195 to \$203.

This mass change will be in addition to the annual FS cost of living adjustments (COLA), gross and net income limits, allotment tables, standard deduction amounts, excess shelter expense

deductions, and SUA deduction changes that occur every October 1st. That mass change will continue to occur annually.

POLICY CHANGE

There is no policy change. The table below summarizes the changes:

NEW STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCES

Shelter and Utility Allowances	Current	Effective July 1, 2006
HSUA (Heating Standard Utility Allowance)	\$303	\$327
LUA (Limited Utility Allowance)	\$195	\$203
EUA (Electric Utility Allowance)	\$67	\$75
WUA (Water or Sewer Utility Allowance)	\$60	No change
PUA (Phone Utility Allowance)	\$25	No change
FUA (Cooking Fuel Utility Allowance)	\$28	No change
TUA (Trash Utility Allowance)	\$15	No change
Shelter Maximum	\$400	No change

PROCEDURE

Reference table changes will be made in CARES, so that the new amounts will be used for ongoing cases effective July 1, 2006. The mass change will occur on June 10, 2006. During the FS mass change, CARES will select all FS cases and process eligibility for July using the new reference table changes and standards. Eligibility determinations for FS for July 2006 and later will use the new amounts. These amounts are found in CARES tables TFST and TFEP. The FoodShare Handbook Chapter 8.1.5 will be updated in the next release.

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

BHCE CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

★Program Categories – FS – FoodShare, MA – Medicaid, SC – Senior Care, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, CC – Child Care, W-2 – Wisconsin Works, FSET – Food Stamp Employment and Training, CF – Children First, EA – Emergency Assistance, JAL – Job Access Loan, JC - Job Center Programs, RAP – Refugee Assistance Program, WIA – Workforce Investment Act, Other EP – Other Employment Programs.

DHFS/DHCF/BEM/JB