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**State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker**

**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: Rich Albertoni, Bureau Director
Bureau of Enrollment Policy & Systems
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability

BEPS/DFS OPERATIONS MEMO					
No: 11-49 Amended					
DATE: 08/29/2011					
FS	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input type="checkbox"/>	BC+	<input type="checkbox"/>
SC	<input type="checkbox"/>	CTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	FSET	<input type="checkbox"/>
BC+ Basic	<input type="checkbox"/>	BC+ CORE	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CC	<input type="checkbox"/>	W-2	<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	<input type="checkbox"/> *
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SUBJECT: FFY 2012 FoodShare Mass Change

CROSS REFERENCE: FoodShare Handbook, [Chapter 8.1](#).
Operations Memo 09-11

EFFECTIVE DATE: [October 1, 2011](#)

PURPOSE:

This memo announces the FoodShare (FS) cost of living adjustments (COLA) and the new Standard Utility amounts (SUA) for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2012.

BACKGROUND

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

Allotments will **not** be increasing again this federal fiscal year 2012 since they were increased with the passage of the Economic Stimulus package that required States to increase the maximum FS benefit allotments by 13.6% effective April 1, 2009. The Federal Poverty Income Limits have increased and noted in the chart below.

POLICY**FS COLA FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2012**

Reference table changes will be made in CARES on September 10, 2011, so that ongoing cases will use the new amounts effective October 1, 2011. The mass change will occur on the weekend of September 10, 2011. 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 2011 and later will use the new amounts. These amounts can be found in CARES tables TFST and TFEP. They will be added to Chapter 8.1, of the FS Handbook in the next release.

The following changes are effective October 1, 2011:

Maximum Excess Shelter Deduction

The maximum excess shelter deduction will increase to \$459.

Income Limit & Allotment Amounts

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	\$1816	\$1498	\$1180	\$908	\$200
2	\$2452	\$2023	\$1594	\$1226	\$367
3	\$3090	\$2548	\$2008	\$1545	\$526
4	\$3726	\$3074	\$2422	\$1863	\$668
5	\$4362	\$3599	\$2836	\$2181	\$793
6	\$5000	\$4124	\$3249	\$2500	\$952
7	\$5636	\$4649	\$3663	\$2818	\$1052
8	\$6272	\$5175	\$4077	\$3136	\$1202
9	\$6910	\$5701	\$4491	\$3455	\$1352
10	\$7548	\$6227	\$4905	\$3774	\$1502
11	\$8186	\$6753	\$5319	\$4093	\$1652
12	\$8824	\$7279	\$5733	\$4412	\$1802

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

Standard Deduction

The Standard Deduction is based on the AG size. This year, the standard deduction will increase.

AG Size	Standard Deduction Amount
1-3	\$147
4	\$155
5	\$181
6 or more	\$208

New Standard Utility Allowances

The new Heating Standard Utility Allowance (HSUA) used for all FoodShare eligibility determinations is \$444 effective October 1, 2011. The other standard utility amounts are used only for Medicaid and will be updated in the Medicaid Eligibility Handbook (MEH) in an upcoming release.

Standard	Allowance	Definition
HSUA	\$444	Heating
LUA	\$316	No heat, with at least two other qualifying expenses
PUA	\$32	Telephone

PROCEDURE

Any cases that are run for FS eligibility on/after September 10, 2011, will have the new SUA standard amounts applied effective October 1, 2011.

CONTACTS

BEPS CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

*Program Categories – FS – FoodShare, MA – Medicaid, BC+ – BadgerCare Plus, SC – Senior Care, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, CC – Child Care, W-2 – Wisconsin Works, FSET – FoodShare Employment and Training, BC+ Core – BadgerCare Plus Core, 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.

DHS/DHCAA/BEPS/JB