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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: Shawn Smith, Bureau Director  
Bureau of Enrollment Policy & Systems  
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability

**DHS OPERATIONS MEMO**

No: DHS 14-37 **Amended**

DATE: 8/28/2014

FS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input type="checkbox"/>	BC+	<input type="checkbox"/>
SC	<input type="checkbox"/>	CTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	FSET	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SUBJECT: FFY 2015 FoodShare Mass Change**

**CROSS REFERENCE:** FoodShare Handbook, Chapter 8.1; 7CFR273.9(d)(6)(iii)(A), and (B)  
[13-27 Operations Memo](#)

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2014

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this memo is to announce the FoodShare (FS) Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) and the new Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) amounts for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2015, effective October 1, 2014.

**BACKGROUND:**

Each year the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) announces adjustments to the gross and net income limits, allotment tables, standard deduction amounts, and the excess shelter expense deduction cap.

Maximum allotments for FS are based on a USDA calculation. Allotment adjustments are made on October 1 of each year, in accordance with the Food and Nutrition Act.

FoodShare maximum allotment amounts will increase effective October 1 of 2014. For example, for a family of 4 that receives the maximum allotment, benefits will increase from \$632 to \$649.

Adjustments to the standard utility allowance amounts are based on statewide average utility costs.

The Federal Poverty Income Limits and deductions have changed as noted in the charts below.

### **POLICY:**

#### FS COLA FOR FFY 2015 – OCTOBER 1, 2014 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.

Reference table changes will be made in CARES on August 29, 2014, so that ongoing cases will have the new allotment amounts applied to them effective October 1, 2014. A FS mass change will occur on the weekend of September 6, 2014. The 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 2014 and later will use the new amounts. These amounts can be found in CARES tables TFST and TFEP. The new amounts will be added to Chapter 8.1, of the FS Handbook.

The following changes are effective October 1, 2014:

### **CARES:**

#### Income Limit & Allotment Amounts

<b>AG Size</b>	<b>200% FPL Gross Income Limit</b>	<b>165% FPL Gross Income Limit</b>	<b>130% FPL Gross Income Limit</b>	<b>100% FPL Net Income Limit</b>	<b>Maximum Allotment</b>
1	\$1,946	\$1,605	\$1,265	\$973	\$194
2	\$2,622	\$2,163	\$1,705	\$1,311	\$357
3	\$3,300	\$2,722	\$2,144	\$1,650	\$511
4	\$3,976	\$3,280	\$2,584	\$1,988	\$649
5	\$4,652	\$3,838	\$3,024	\$2,326	\$771
6	\$5,330	\$4,396	\$3,464	\$2,665	\$925
7	\$6,006	\$4,955	\$3,904	\$3,003	\$1,022
8	\$6,682	\$5,513	\$4,344	\$3,341	\$1,169
9	\$7,360	\$6,072	\$4,784	\$3,680	\$1,315
10	\$8,038	\$6,631	\$5,224	\$4,019	\$1,461
11	\$8,716	\$7,190	\$5,664	\$4,358	\$1,607
12	\$9,394	\$7,749	\$6,104	\$4,697	\$1,753

#### Minimum Allotment

The minimum monthly FS allotment for categorically eligible food units that include one or two individuals has increased from \$15 to \$16.

**Maximum Excess Shelter Deduction**

The maximum excess shelter deduction will increase to \$490.

**Standard Deduction**

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

<b>AG Size</b>	<b>Standard Deduction Amount</b>
1-3	\$155
4	\$165
5	\$193
6 or more	\$221

**New Standard Utility Allowances**

The current Heating Standard Utility Allowance (HSUA) of \$450 is **decreasing** to \$446 effective October 1, 2014. Each new utility allowance is listed below.

<b>HSUA</b>	\$446	Heating
<b>LUA</b>	\$321	No heat, with at least two other qualifying expenses
<b>EUA</b>	\$161	Electric Utility Allowance
<b>WUA</b>	\$74	Water and Sewer
<b>FUA</b>	\$37	Cooking Fuel
<b>PUA</b>	\$30	Telephone
<b>TUA</b>	\$19	Garbage and Trash

Any cases with FS eligibility run on or after September 6, 2014, will have the new SUA standard amounts applied effective October 1, 2014.

**4.3.3.6.3 Self-Employed Child Care Provider**

A child care provider can deduct the cost of meals provided to the enrolled children from the income earned by the child care business. The provider may report the actual cost of the meals or use the federal standard deductions. Tier 1 applies to households with income at or below 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Level income guidelines. Tier 2 applies to all other households.

<b>TIER 1</b>	<b>TIER 2</b>
Breakfast \$1.31	Breakfast \$0.48
Lunch or Supper \$2.47	Lunch or Supper \$1.49
Supplement (snacks) \$0.73	Supplement (snacks) \$0.23

**CONTACTS:**

BEPS CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

\*Program Categories – FS – FoodShare, MA – Medicaid, BC+ – BadgerCare Plus, SC – SeniorCare, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, FSET – FoodShare Employment and Training.

DHS/DHCAA/BEPS/JB