



Date: August 28, 2015

DHCAA Operations Memo 15-29

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

Affected Programs:	
<input type="checkbox"/> BadgerCare Plus	<input type="checkbox"/> Caretaker Supplement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FoodShare	<input type="checkbox"/> FoodShare Employment and Training
<input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid	
<input type="checkbox"/> SeniorCare	

From: Shawn Tessmann, Bureau Director
Bureau of Enrollment Policy and Systems
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability

Federal Fiscal Year 2016 FoodShare Mass Change

CROSS REFERENCE

FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook, [Section 8.1 Tables](#) and [Section 4.3.3.6.3 Self-Employed Child Care Provider](#); 7 C.F.R. § 273.9(d)(6)(iii)(A) and (B); Operations Memo [14-37](#)

EFFECTIVE DATE

October 1, 2015

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Operations Memo is to announce the FoodShare Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) and new Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) amounts for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016, effective October 1, 2015. Federal Fiscal Year 2016 is from October 1, 2015, to September 30, 2016.

BACKGROUND

Each year the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service announces adjustments to the income limits, allotment tables, maximum excess shelter deduction, standard deduction amounts, SUAs, and self-employed child care provider meal deductions.

Maximum allotments for FoodShare 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 not increase this year but will remain at the same level as last year.

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

The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) income limits and deductions have changed, as noted in the tables below.

POLICY

FOODSHARE COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2016

Eligibility determinations for FoodShare for October 2015 and later will use the new COLA and SUA amounts for FFY 2016. These amounts are listed in the tables below and can be found in CARES tables TFST and TFEP. The new amounts will be added to [Section 8.1.1 Income Limits](#) of the FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook.

INCOME LIMIT AND ALLOTMENT AMOUNTS

Monthly Income Limit and Allotment Amounts for FFY 2016					
Assistance Group (AG) Size	200% FPL Gross Income Limit	165% FPL Gross Income Limit	130% FPL Gross Income Limit	100% FPL Net Income Limit	Maximum Allotment
1	\$1,962	\$1,619	\$1,276	\$981	\$194
2	\$2,656	\$2,191	\$1,726	\$1,328	\$357
3	\$3,350	\$2,763	\$2,177	\$1,675	\$511
4	\$4,042	\$3,335	\$2,628	\$2,021	\$649
5	\$4,736	\$3,907	\$3,078	\$2,368	\$771
6	\$5,430	\$4,479	\$3,529	\$2,715	\$925
7	\$6,122	\$5,051	\$3,980	\$3,061	\$1,022
8	\$6,816	\$5,623	\$4,430	\$3,408	\$1,169
9	\$7,510	\$6,195	\$4,881	\$3,755	\$1,315
10	\$8,204	\$6,767	\$5,332	\$4,102	\$1,461
11	\$8,898	\$7,339	\$5,783	\$4,449	\$1,607
12	\$9,592	\$7,911	\$6,234	\$4,796	\$1,753

MINIMUM ALLOTMENT

The minimum monthly FoodShare allotment for categorically eligible food units that include one or two individuals will remain at \$16.

MAXIMUM EXCESS SHELTER DEDUCTION

The maximum excess shelter deduction will increase to \$504.

STANDARD DEDUCTION

The standard deduction is based on the AG size. This year, the standard deduction will increase for groups of four or larger.

Standard Deduction for FFY 2016	
AG Size	Standard Deduction Amount
1-3	\$155
4	\$168
5	\$197
6 or more	\$226

STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCES

The Heating Standard Utility Allowance (HSUA) will increase to \$458. Standard utility allowances for FFY 2016 are listed in the following table.

SUAs for FFY 2016		
SUA Code	Amount	Type of Utility Allowance
HSUA	\$458	Heating
LUA	\$293	No heat, with at least two other qualifying expenses
EUA	\$119	Electric Utility Allowance
WUA	\$78	Water and Sewer
FUA	\$46	Cooking Fuel
PUA	\$30	Telephone
TUA	\$20	Garbage and Trash

Any cases with FoodShare eligibility run on or after September 5, 2015, will have the new SUA amounts applied, effective October 1, 2015.

SELF-EMPLOYED CHILD CARE PROVIDER DEDUCTIONS

Child care providers can deduct the cost of meals provided to enrolled children from the income earned by their child care business. They may report the actual cost of the meals, or they may use the federal standard deductions. The reported costs may not exceed allowable federal standard deductions based on the eligible tier. Tier 1 applies to households with income at or below 185 percent of the FPL income guidelines. Tier 2 applies to all other households.

Federal Standard Deductions		
Meals	Tier 1	Tier 2
Breakfast	\$1.32	\$0.48
Lunch or supper	\$2.48	\$1.50
Supplement (snacks)	\$0.74	\$0.20

CARES

Reference table changes will be made in CARES on August 29, 2015, to allow for the application of the new COLA and SUA amounts for FFY 2016 beginning October 1, 2015. A FoodShare mass change will occur on September 5, 2015. The mass change will select all FoodShare cases and process eligibility for October using the new reference table changes and standards.

CONTACTS

BEPS CARES Information and Problem Resolution Center

DHS/DHCAA/BEPS/JB