



Date: September 1, 2016

DHCAA Operations Memo 16-25

To: Income Maintenance Supervisors  
Income Maintenance Lead Workers  
Income Maintenance Staff  
W-2 Agencies  
Workforce Development Boards  
Job Center Leads and Managers  
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: Rebecca McAtee, Bureau Director  
Bureau of Enrollment Policy and Systems  
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability

**Federal Fiscal Year 2017 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 [15-29](#)

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

October 1, 2016

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Operations Memo is to announce the FoodShare Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA), new Standard Utility Allowance (SUA), and federal standard deductions for meals provided by self-employed child care providers for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017. Federal Fiscal Year 2017 is October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017.

**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.

The USDA calculates maximum allotments for FoodShare, and states are required to adjust allotments on October 1 of each year, based on the Food and Nutrition Act. FoodShare maximum allotment amounts will not increase this year but will remain at the same level as last year.

**POLICY****FOODSHARE COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2017**

Beginning October 1, 2016, eligibility determinations for FoodShare will apply the FFY 2017 COLA and SUA amounts. These amounts are listed in the tables below. The new amounts will be added to [Section 8.1.1 Income Limits](#) of the FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook with the next handbook release.

**INCOME LIMIT AND ALLOTMENT AMOUNTS**

<b>Monthly Income Limit and Allotment Amounts for FFY 2017</b>					
<b>Assistance Group Size</b>	<b>200% Federal Poverty Level (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	\$1,980	\$1,634	\$1,287	\$990	\$194
2	\$2,670	\$2,203	\$1,736	\$1,335	\$357
3	\$3,360	\$2,772	\$2,184	\$1,680	\$511
4	\$4,050	\$3,342	\$2,633	\$2,025	\$649
5	\$4,740	\$3,911	\$3,081	\$2,370	\$771
6	\$5,430	\$4,480	\$3,530	\$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 people will remain \$16.

**MAXIMUM EXCESS SHELTER DEDUCTION**

The maximum excess shelter deduction will increase to \$517.

**STANDARD DEDUCTION**

The standard deduction is based on the size of an assistance group. This year, the standard deduction will increase for assistance groups with 1-3 people and will remain the same for all other assistance groups.

<b>Standard Deduction for FFY 2017</b>	
<b>Assistance Group Size</b>	<b>Standard Deduction Amount</b>
1-3	\$157
4	\$168
5	\$197
6 or more	\$226

**STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCES**

The Heating Standard Utility Allowance (HSUA) will decrease to \$457. Standard utility allowances for FFY 2017 are listed in the following table.

<b>SUAs for FFY 2017</b>		
<b>SUA Code</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Type of Utility Allowance</b>
<b>HSUA</b>	\$457	Heating
<b>LUA</b>	\$307	No heat, with at least two other qualifying expenses
<b>EUA</b>	\$123	Electric Utility Allowance
<b>WUA</b>	\$81	Water and Sewer
<b>FUA</b>	\$35	Cooking Fuel
<b>PUA</b>	\$29	Telephone
<b>TUA</b>	\$21	Garbage and Trash

Any cases with FoodShare eligibility run on or after September 3, 2016, will have the new SUA amounts applied, effective October 1, 2016.

**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.

<b>Federal Standard Deductions</b>		
<b>Meals</b>	<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>Tier 2</b>
Breakfast	\$1.31	\$0.48
Lunch or supper	\$2.46	\$1.49
Supplement (snacks)	\$0.73	\$0.20

## **CARES**

CARES tables TFST and TFEP were changed on August 25, 2016, to allow for the application of the new COLA and SUA amounts for FFY 2017 beginning October 1, 2016.

A FoodShare mass change will occur on September 3, 2016. This 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/RG