



Date: August 30, 2017

DMS Operations Memo 17-40

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 checked="" 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 Medicaid Services

Federal Fiscal Year 2018 FoodShare Mass Change

CROSS REFERENCE

- Operations Memo [16-25](#)
- FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook, [Section 8.1 Tables](#) and [Section 4.3.3.8 Self-employed Child Care Provider](#)
- 7 C.F.R. § 273.9(d)(6)(iii)(A) and (B)

EFFECTIVE DATE

October 1, 2017

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) 2018, October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018.

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 minimum and maximum allotment amounts will decrease this year.

POLICY***FOODSHARE COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2018***

Effective for October 1, 2017, eligibility determinations for FoodShare will apply the FFY 2018 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](#), [Section 8.1.2 Allotment for Monthly Net Income and FoodShare Group Size](#), and [Section 8.1.3 Deductions](#) of the FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook with the next handbook release.

INCOME LIMIT AND ALLOTMENT AMOUNTS

Monthly Income Limit and Allotment Amounts for FFY 2018					
Assistance Group Size	200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Gross Income Limit	165% FPL Gross Income Limit	130% FPL Gross Income Limit	100% FPL Net Income Limit	Maximum Allotment
1	\$2,010	\$1,659	\$1,307	\$1,005	\$192
2	\$2,708	\$2,233	\$1,760	\$1,354	\$352
3	\$3,404	\$2,808	\$2,213	\$1,702	\$504
4	\$4,100	\$3,383	\$2,665	\$2,050	\$640
5	\$4,798	\$3,958	\$3,118	\$2,399	\$760
6	\$5,494	\$4,532	\$3,571	\$2,747	\$913
7	\$6,190	\$5,107	\$4,024	\$3,095	\$1,009
8	\$6,888	\$5,682	\$4,477	\$3,444	\$1,153
9	\$7,586	\$6,257	\$4,930	\$3,793	\$1,297
10	\$8,284	\$6,832	\$5,383	\$4,142	\$1,441
11	\$8,982	\$7,407	\$5,836	\$4,491	\$1,585
12	\$9,680	\$7,982	\$6,289	\$4,840	\$1,729

MINIMUM ALLOTMENT

The minimum monthly FoodShare allotment for categorically eligible food units that include one or two people will decrease to \$15.

MAXIMUM EXCESS SHELTER DEDUCTION

The maximum excess shelter deduction will increase to \$535.

STANDARD DEDUCTION

The standard deduction is based on the size of an assistance group. This year, the standard deduction will increase for all assistance groups.

Standard Deduction for FFY 2018	
Assistance Group Size	Standard Deduction Amount
1-3	\$160
4	\$170
5	\$199
6 or more	\$228

STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCES

The Heating Standard Utility Allowance (HSUA) will decrease to \$448. The Cooking Fuel Allowance (FUA) will decrease to \$34. The amount of other allowances will increase. Standard utility allowances for FFY 2018 are listed in the following table.

Standard Utility Allowances for FFY 2018		
SUA Code	Amount	Type of Utility Allowance
HSUA	\$448	Heating
LUA	\$338	No heat, with at least two other qualifying expenses
EUA	\$167	Electric Utility Allowance
WUA	\$84	Water and Sewer
FUA	\$34	Cooking Fuel
PUA	\$31	Telephone
TUA	\$22	Garbage and Trash

Any cases with FoodShare eligibility run on or after August 25, 2017, will have the new SUA amounts applied, effective October 1, 2017.

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	\$1.31	\$0.48
Lunch or supper	\$2.46	\$1.48
Supplement (snacks)	\$0.73	\$0.20

ASSET LIMIT FOR FOODSHARE FOR THE ELDERLY, BLIND, OR DISABLED

The asset limit applies to food units that include an elderly, blind or disabled member with gross income over 200% of the FPL and with a net income that does not exceed 100% FPL. The asset limit has increased from \$3,250 to \$3,500.

FOODSHARE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING AGENCIES

Due to allotment changes resulting from the mass change, FoodShare Employment and Training (FSET) workers should recalculate the required hours of participation for each household participating in the workfare component. Assigned hours of participation and employment plans should be adjusted accordingly for the beginning of the month following the allotment change.

CARES

CARES tables—TFST, TFEP, and TUSA—were changed on August 25, 2017, to allow for the application of the new COLA and SUA amounts for FFY 2018 beginning October 1, 2017.

A FoodShare mass change will occur on September 2, 2017. This mass change will select all FoodShare cases and process eligibility for October using the new reference table changes and standards.

NOTICES

A Notice of Decision will be mailed on or near Tuesday, September 5, informing members of any changes in their benefits as a result of the mass change. Benefit changes are effective October 1, 2017. The Notice of Decision will include an [informational insert](#) explaining why there may be a change in benefits due to the decrease in the minimum and maximum FoodShare allotment amounts and SUA changes. The informational insert is designed to reduce phone inquiries to income maintenance agencies and to assist members in making educated decisions before requesting a fair hearing due to a decrease in their benefit allotment. Changes in FoodShare benefits resulting from the mass change cannot be overturned in a fair hearing; however, members still have the right to request a fair hearing.

Outreach agencies will be notified of the potential changes in benefit levels due to decrease in amount of the minimum and maximum FoodShare allotment prior to the mailing.

ATTACHMENTS

- [Informational insert](#)

CONTACTS

BEPS CARES Information and Problem Resolution Center