



Date: August 30, 2018

DMS Operations Memo 18-30

To: Income Maintenance Supervisors
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff
W-2 Agencies
Workforce Development Boards
Job Center Leads and Managers
Child Care Eligibility and Authorization
Supervisors and Workers

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 2019 FoodShare Mass Change

CROSS REFERENCE

- Operations Memo [17-40](#)
- FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook, [Section 8.1 Tables](#) and [Section 4.3.3.8 Self-employment Expenses: Self-employed Child Care Provider](#)
- 7 C.F.R. § 273.9(d)(6)(iii)(A) and (B)

EFFECTIVE DATE

October 1, 2018

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) 2019. FFY 2019 is October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2019.

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. The FoodShare minimum allotment will remain the same and most maximum allotment amounts will increase this year.

POLICY

FOODSHARE COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2019

Effective for October 1, 2018, eligibility determinations for FoodShare will apply the FFY 2019 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 2019					
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	\$2,024	\$1,670	\$1,316	\$1,012	\$192
2	\$2,744	\$2,264	\$1,784	\$1,372	\$353
3	\$3,464	\$2,858	\$2,252	\$1,732	\$505
4	\$4,184	\$3,452	\$2,720	\$2,092	\$642
5	\$4,904	\$4,046	\$3,188	\$2,452	\$762
6	\$5,624	\$4,640	\$3,656	\$2,812	\$914
7	\$6,344	\$5,234	\$4,124	\$3,172	\$1,011
8	\$7,064	\$5,828	\$4,592	\$3,532	\$1,155
9	\$7,784	\$6,422	\$5,060	\$3,892	\$1,299
10	\$8,504	\$7,016	\$5,528	\$4,252	\$1,443
11	\$9,224	\$7,610	\$5,996	\$4,612	\$1,587
12	\$9,944	\$8,204	\$6,464	\$4,972	\$1,731

MINIMUM ALLOTMENT

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

MAXIMUM EXCESS SHELTER DEDUCTION

The maximum excess shelter deduction will increase to \$552.

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 2019	
Assistance Group Size	Standard Deduction Amount
1-3	\$164
4	\$174
5	\$204
6 or more	\$234

STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCES

The Limited Utility Allowance (LUA) will decrease to \$308. The Electric Utility Allowance (EUA) will decrease to \$130. The amount of all other allowances will increase. Standard utility allowances for FFY 2019 are listed in the following table.

SUAs for FFY 2019		
SUA Code	Amount	Type of Utility Allowance
HSUA	\$452	Heating
LUA	\$308	No heat, with at least two other qualifying expenses
EUA	\$130	Electric Utility Allowance
WUA	\$86	Water and Sewer
FUA	\$36	Cooking Fuel
PUA	\$33	Telephone
TUA	\$23	Garbage and Trash

Any cases with FoodShare eligibility run on or after August 25, 2018, will have the new SUA amounts applied, effective October 1, 2018.

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 will remain \$3,500.

CARES

CARES tables TFST, TFEP, and TUSA were changed on August 24, 2018, to allow for the application of the new COLA and SUA amounts for FFY 2019 beginning October 1, 2018.

A FoodShare mass change will occur on the weekend of September 1-2, 2018. 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 the first week of September to inform members of any changes in their benefits as a result of the mass change. Benefit changes are effective October 1, 2018. 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.

CONTACTS

BEPS CARES Information and Problem Resolution Center

DHS/DMS/BEPS/BJ