



Date: September 1, 2023

DMS Operations Memo 23-28

To: Income Maintenance Supervisors  
Income Maintenance Lead Workers  
Income Maintenance Staff

**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: Jonelle Brom, Bureau Director  
Bureau of Eligibility Operations & Training  
Division of Medicaid Services

Jori Mundy Bureau Director  
Bureau of Enrollment & Eligibility Policy  
Division of Medicaid Services

**FoodShare Cost of Living Adjustments**

**CROSS REFERENCE**

- Operations Memo [22-15](#)
- FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook, [Section 8.1 Tables](#), [Section 4.3.3.8 Self-employment Expenses: Self-employed Child Care Provider](#), [Section 4.4.1.4 Disregarded Assets](#), and [Section 8.1.3 Deductions](#)
- 7 C.F.R. § 273.9(d)

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

October 1, 2023

**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) 2024. FFY 2024 is October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024.

**BACKGROUND**

Each year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service announces adjustments to FoodShare COLA (income limits for eligibility, maximum allotments, and deduction

amounts), standard utility allowances, and self-employed child care provider meal deductions. The USDA uses the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) to calculate maximum allotments for FoodShare. Based on this year’s TFP, FoodShare maximum allotment amounts will increase. States are required to adjust allotments on October 1 of each year based on the Food and Nutrition Act. Changes to FoodShare benefits resulting from the annual changes cannot be overturned in a fair hearing; however, members still have the right to request a fair hearing.

**POLICY**

***FOODSHARE COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2024***

Effective for October 1, 2023, eligibility determinations for FoodShare will apply the FFY 2024 COLA amounts, standard utility deductions, and self-employed child care provider meal deductions. Members will receive a Notice of Decision if the COLA results in a change of benefits effective October 1, 2023. Members can expect to receive these notices as early as August 26, 2023. The new amounts are listed in the tables below. These 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.

Previously, the Transitional FoodShare (TFS) allotment was frozen during the TFS certification period. Beginning October 1, 2023, Transitional FoodShare (TFS) cases will also go through the annual COLA process. There may be a change to the TFS allotment solely due to COLA adjustments. Newly reported information (for example rent) since the TFS benefit was frozen will not be used in the new calculation, only the amounts that are updated with the annual COLA adjustments. The new allotment will continue through the remainder of the TFS certification period.

***INCOME LIMIT AND ALLOTMENT AMOUNTS***

<b>Monthly Income Limit and Allotment Amounts for FFY 2024</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	\$2,430	\$2,005	\$1,580	\$1,215	\$291
2	\$3,288	\$2,712	\$2,137	\$1,644	\$535
3	\$4,144	\$3,419	\$2,694	\$2,072	\$766
4	\$5,000	\$4,125	\$3,250	\$2,500	\$973
5	\$5,858	\$4,832	\$3,807	\$2,929	\$1,155
6	\$6,714	\$5,539	\$4,364	\$3,357	\$1,386
7	\$7,570	\$6,246	\$4,921	\$3,785	\$1,532
8	\$8,428	\$6,952	\$5,478	\$4,214	\$1,751

9	\$9,286	\$7,659	\$6,035	\$4,643	\$1,970
10	\$10,144	\$8,366	\$6,592	\$5,072	\$2,189
Additional Member	\$858	\$707	\$557	\$429	\$219

**MINIMUM ALLOTMENT**

The minimum monthly FoodShare allotment for categorically eligible food units that include one or two people will remain at \$23.

**MAXIMUM EXCESS SHELTER DEDUCTION**

The maximum excess shelter deduction will increase to \$672.

**HOMELESS SHELTER DEDUCTION**

The homeless shelter deduction will increase to \$180.

**STANDARD DEDUCTION**

The standard deduction is based on the size of an assistance group.

Standard Deduction for FFY 2024	
Assistance Group Size	Standard Deduction Amount
1-2	\$198
3	\$198
4	\$208
5	\$244
6 or more	\$279

**STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCES**

The Heating Standard Utility Allowance (HSUA) will increase to \$502. The Limited Utility Allowance (LUA) will increase to \$347. The Electric Utility Allowance (EUA) will increase to \$144. The Water and Sewer Allowance (WUA) will increase to \$99. The Cooking Fuel Utility Allowance (FUA) will increase to \$42. The Phone Utility Allowance (PUA) will increase to \$30. The Trash Utility Allowance (TUA) will increase to \$26. Standard utility allowances for FFY 2024 are listed in the following table.

SUAs for FFY 2024		
SUA Code	Amount	Type of Utility Allowance
HSUA	\$502	Heating
LUA	\$347	Non-heat electric with at least one other qualifying expense
EUA	\$144	Electric Utility Allowance

<b>WUA</b>	\$99	Water and Sewer
<b>FUA</b>	\$42	Cooking Fuel
<b>PUA</b>	\$30	Telephone
<b>TUA</b>	\$26	Garbage and Trash

***SELF-EMPLOYED CHILD CARE PROVIDER DEDUCTIONS***

Self-employed 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	\$1.65	\$0.59
Lunch or supper	\$3.12	\$1.88
Supplement (snacks)	\$0.93	\$0.25

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

The asset limit applies to Elderly, Blind, or Disabled (EBD) food units (at least one member is elderly, blind, or disabled) with monthly gross income over 200% of the FPL and with a net income that does not exceed 100% FPL. The asset limit will remain at \$4,250.

**CONTACTS**

DHS CARES Problem Resolution Team

DHS/DMS/BEOT  
 DHS/DMS/BEEP/JT