



Date: August 18, 2026

DMS Operations Memo 26-30

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

Affected Programs:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☒ BadgerCare Plus | ☐ Caretaker Supplement |
| ☒ FoodShare | ☐ FoodShare Employment and Training |
| ☒ Medicaid | |
| ☐ SeniorCare | |

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Division of Medicaid Services

Change to FoodShare Standard Utility Allowance Effective Date

CROSS-REFERENCE

- [Operations Memo 26-22, "Change to the FoodShare Standard Utility Allowance"](#)
- FoodShare Wisconsin Policy Handbook, [Sections 8.1.3 Deductions](#) and [4.6.7.3 Standard Utility Allowances](#)
- 7 C.F.R. [§ 273.9\(d\)\(6\)\(iii\)](#)
- FNS Final Rule *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Standardization of Heating and Cooling Standard Utility Allowances*

EFFECTIVE DATE

August 22, 2026

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to announce that Wisconsin will issue supplement [FD1.1][GD1.2] [FD1.3] benefits for May and June 2026 to qualifying households due to a change in the effective date for the Standard Utility Allowances (SUA) implemented in July 2026.

BACKGROUND

The FoodShare SUA are state-specific standardized deduction amounts that households can receive based on the types of utility costs they have. There are seven different types of utility deductions. The SUA amounts are updated annually to reflect changes in utility costs.

In addition, recent federal guidance updated the methodologies that states must use to calculate SUA amounts. Wisconsin's updated SUA amounts, which are based on these new methodologies, were approved by the federal Food and Nutrition Administration (FNA) in May 2026 with an implementation date of July 1, 2026. In July 2026, FNA approved a new effective date of May 1, 2026.

The updated standard utility allowances are listed in the table below.

SUA Type	Old Amount	New Amount	Type of Utility Allowance
Heating Standard Utility Allowance (HSUA)	\$553	\$870	Heating
Limited Utility Allowance (LUA)	\$385	\$436	Non-heat electric with at least one other qualifying expense
Electric Utility Allowance (EUA)	\$155	\$139	Electric Utility Allowance
Water and Sewer Utility Allowance (WUA)	\$106	\$112	Water and Sewer
Cooking Fuel Utility Allowance (FUA)	\$48	\$34	Cooking Fuel
Phone Utility Allowance (PUA)	\$31	\$106	Telephone
Trash Utility Allowance (TUA)	\$28	\$47	Garbage and Trash

POLICY

The effective date of Wisconsin's updated SUA amounts is May 1, 2026.

Households that would have received a higher FoodShare benefit for May or June 2026 if the updated SUA had been used will receive a supplement benefit for one or both months. Households will not receive a supplement benefit if the updated benefit amount is lower or equal to the benefit originally issued. Households that did not receive FoodShare benefits in May or June 2026 will not receive a supplement.

Qualifying households will receive supplement benefits on August 23, 2026. A notice will be sent to households and will include the amount of supplement benefits issued for each month.

No overpayment claims will be established due to this policy change.

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CONTACTS

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