

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



September 11, 2000

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 00-63

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS

<u>REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	State Law Change
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal Law or Regulation Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	Court Order
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
<input type="checkbox"/>	Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: FOOD STAMP INFORMATION ON COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLAs): MAXIMUM FOOD STAMP ALLOTMENTS, STANDARD DEDUCTION, SHELTER DEDUCTION, HOMELESS HOUSEHOLD SHELTER ALLOWANCE, STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCE, INCOME ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS, AND FOOD STAMP TABLES OF COUPON ISSUANCE

REFERENCE:

The Food Stamp Act of 1977 (as amended) requires annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) to the Program's allotments, eligibility standards, and certain deductions. This letter transmits final information on the COLAs for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2001.

Maximum Allotment

Food Stamp allotments are adjusted by the United States Department of Agriculture every October 1 to take into account changes in the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP). As a result of an increase in the cost of the TFP and the requirements of the Food Stamp Act, maximum allotments for FFY 2001 have changed as shown below.

Household Size:	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	Each Additional Person
	\$130	\$238	\$341	\$434	\$515	\$618	\$683	\$781	+98

Standard Deduction, Shelter Deduction, And Homeless Household Shelter Allowance

The standard deduction and homeless household shelter allowance amounts found in ATTACHMENT I will remain the same as last year. However, the shelter deduction has been increased.

- Standard Deduction \$134
- Shelter Deduction \$300 (changed)
- Homeless Household Shelter Allowance \$143

Standard Utility Allowance (SUA)

As a result of an increase in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, and in accordance with Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) 63-502.363(d), the SUA has been changed to reflect recent cost-of-living adjustments. The new SUA amount is \$170 and must be applied to allotments for October based on August information for retrospectively-budgeted cases.

Income Eligibility Standards

The income eligibility standards have changed and the new amounts must be applied to allotments for October, which are based on August information for retrospectively budgeted cases. Eligibility standards are in ATTACHMENT I containing a chart of the "Net and Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards" and a chart of the "Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards for Households Where Elderly/Disabled Are a Separate Household."

Tables of Coupon Issuance

A final version of the Tables of Coupon Issuance was sent to Food Stamp Coordinators on August 25, 2000. These tables must be used for all cases when calculating allotments for October 2000. The tables are bracketed to identify food stamp allotment amounts that apply only to categorically eligible (CE) households. Please note that there are no CE bracketed amounts for a household of three because the food stamp allotment amounts end before the maximum net monthly income limit of \$1180 for a household of three is reached.

Stuffer Notice

ATTACHMENT II is a copy of the FS 11 (ENG/SP), the general mass change notice. County Welfare Departments (CWDs) are encouraged to mail a copy of this notice to all households along with the October allotment. Also included is the FS11A (ENG/SP), for retroactive notification to clients. These notices inform clients about changes in food stamp allotments and the SUA deduction amount.

Prior to duplication, CWDs must ensure that these notices contain the county specific address that clients should use to send written state hearing requests.

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Those CWDs that do not mail a copy of these notices to all households shall utilize the news media or post this information in certification offices, issuance locations or other sites frequented by certified households. If any other change is to be effective with the retroactive allotment, the Food Stamp Notice of Change (DFA 377.4) must be used to provide individual notice to the household.

Translations

For camera-ready copies of English and Spanish forms, please call the Forms Management Unit (FMU) at (916) 657-1907 or CALNET at 437-1907. CWDs may obtain these forms from the Department's web page at: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov>, or obtain copies by contacting FMU.

Your Forms Coordinator now receives all translations as soon as they become available, if your county is on the Language Translation Services (LTS) mailing list. All translated messages in Russian and Asian (Cambodian, Chinese and Vietnamese) versions of forms will follow shortly. Call LTS at (916) 657-3429 if your county does not receive the Russian and Asian translations.

Retroactive Benefits

If the CWD is unable to effect necessary programming changes to reflect the changes in the October allotments, lost benefits must be restored back to October 1, 2000. All retroactivity must be completed as soon as is administratively feasible, but no later than with the issuance of the December 2000 allotment.

NOTE: If retroactive benefits are paid, the CWD must specify on the FS 11A the method of retroactivity, for example, inclusion with the November allotment, special issuance, etc.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or would like a copy of the Tables of Coupon Issuance, please contact Ernie Villalobos, Analyst, Food Stamp Program Bureau, Policy Implementation Unit at (916) 657-1680.

Sincerely,

original document signed by

BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

ATTACHMENTS (2)

ATTACHMENT 1

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM
OCTOBER 1, 2000 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2001

Net Monthly Income Eligibility
Standards (100% of poverty Level)

Household Size	Net Income
1	\$ 696
2	938
3	1,180
4	1,421
5	1,663
6	1,905
7	2,146
8	2,388
Each Add. Member	+242

Gross Monthly Income Eligibility
Standards (130% of Poverty Level)

Household Size	Gross Income
1	\$ 905
2	1,219
3	1,533
4	1,848
5	2,162
6	2,476
7	2,790
8	3,104
Each Add. Member	+315

Gross Monthly Income Eligibility
Standards For Households
Where Elderly Disabled Are A
Separate Household
(165% of Poverty Level)

Household Size	Gross Income
1	\$1,149
2	1,547
3	1,946
4	2,345
5	2,744
6	3,142
7	3,541
8	3,940
Each Add. Member	+399

Maximum Food Stamp Allotments

Household Size	Allotment
1	\$130
2	238
3	341
4	434
5	515
6	618
7	683
8	781
Each Add. Member	+98

DEDUCTIONS

Standard Deduction \$134

Shelter Deduction \$300

Homeless Household
Shelter Allowance \$143

NOTICE TO ALL FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS IMPORTANT — PLEASE READ

Effective October 1, 2000, your food stamp benefits will be increased. This is because the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved an increase in the coupon allotments, the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA), and the shelter deduction which are used in figuring your food stamp benefits. The SUA was raised from \$163.00 to \$170.00 and the shelter deduction was raised from \$275.00 to \$300.00.

You will get a notice about these changes and any other changes to your household status that make your food stamp benefit different than it was before.

If you think we made a mistake in figuring your October food stamps due to the new amounts for allotments and SUA you may ask for a state hearing, ***within 90 days of when you got this letter*** by writing to:

or you may call toll free: 1-800-952-5253. If you are deaf and use TDD, call 1-800-952-8349. When you ask for a state hearing, you must tell us why you think we made a mistake. You can speak for yourself at the hearing or you can have a friend, attorney, or other person speak for you, but you must get these people to help you. You may ask for free legal aid at a legal aid office in your area.

AVISO A TODAS LAS PERSONAS QUE RECIBEN ESTAMPILLAS PARA COMIDA IMPORTANTE — FAVOR DE LEER

A partir del 1º de octubre de 2000, aumentarán sus beneficios de estampillas para comida. Esto se debe a que el Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos (USDA) aprobó un aumento en las cantidades de estampillas para comida que los hogares pueden recibir. También aprobó un aumento en la cantidad normal permitida para los servicios públicos y municipales (esta cantidad se conoce como SUA por sus siglas en inglés) y en la deducción para vivienda, las cuales se usan para calcular sus beneficios de estampillas para comida. La SUA aumentó de \$163.00 a \$170.00 y la deducción para vivienda aumentó de \$275.00 a \$300.00.

Recibirá una notificación acerca de estos cambios y cualquier otro cambio en relación a la situación de su hogar que cause que sus beneficios sean diferentes a los que tenía antes.

Si cree que cometimos un error al calcular la cantidad de sus estampillas para comida para el mes de octubre debido al aumento en las cantidades de estampillas para comida y el aumento en la SUA, puede pedir una audiencia con el estado. Tiene que pedir la audiencia ***antes de que pasen 90 días a partir de la fecha en que recibió esta carta***, escribiendo a:

o llamando al número gratuito: 1-800-952-5253. Si es sordo y usa un aparato de telecomunicaciones para las personas sordas (TDD), llame al 1-800-952-8349. Cuando pida una audiencia con el estado, tiene que decirnos por qué cree que cometimos un error. Puede representarse a sí mismo en la audiencia o puede representarle un amigo, un abogado u otra persona, pero usted tiene que pedirle a esa persona que le ayude. Puede pedir asistencia legal gratuita en una oficina de asesoramiento legal (*legal aid*) en el área donde usted vive.

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