

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814

September 27, 1999



ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 99-71

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

<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: ALL FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS LETTER DATED AUGUST 31, 1999

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) 2000. This information was previously transmitted to counties with an All Food Stamp Coordinators Letter dated August 31, 1999.

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 2000 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
	\$127	\$234	\$335	\$426	\$506	\$607	\$671	\$767	+96

Standard Deduction, Shelter Deduction, Homeless Household Shelter Allowance

The standard deduction, shelter deduction and homeless household shelter allowance amounts did not change this year. They continue to be:

Page Two

- Standard Deduction \$134
- Shelter Deduction \$275
- 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 Section (M.S.) 63-502.363(d), the SUA has been changed to reflect recent cost-of-living adjustments. The new SUA amount is \$163 and must be applied to allotments for October based on August information for retrospectively-budgeted cases.

#### Income Eligibility Standards

The income eligibility standards have increased and must be applied to allotments for October, which would be based on August information for retrospectively budgeted cases. Eligibility standards are shown on the first enclosure 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

The Tables of Coupon Issuance were sent as an attachment to the All Food Stamp Coordinators Letter of August 31, 1999. These tables must be used for all cases when calculating allotments for October 1999. The tables are bracketed for categorically eligible (CE) households whose income exceeds the maximum net monthly income limit. Please note that there are no bracketed amounts for CE households of three persons because food stamp allotment amounts stopped short of the maximum net monthly income limit of \$1157. While CE, these households have a zero allotment amount.

#### Stuffer Notice

Enclosed is a copy of the FS 11 (ENG/SP), (8/99), the general mass change notice. County Welfare Departments are encouraged to mail a copy of this notice to all households along with the October allotment. Also included is the FS 11A (ENG/SP), (8/99), 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.

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.

Page Three

### 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: <https://www.cdss.ca.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, 1999. All retroactivity must be completed as soon as is administratively feasible, but no later than with the issuance of the December 1999 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***

BRUCE WAGSTAFF  
Deputy Director  
Welfare to Work Division

Enclosures