| Department of Human Resources<br>311 West Saratoga Street<br>Baltimore MD 21201 | **Family Investment Administration**<br>**ACTION TRANSMITTAL** |
|---|---|
| **Control Number: #** 11-23 | **Effective Date: May 1, 2011**<br>**Issuance Date: April 8, 2010** |

**TO:** **DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**
**DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT**
**FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

**FROM:** **ROSEMARY MALONE, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**RE:** **DECREASE IN UTILITY ALLOWANCE**

**PROGRAM AFFECTED:** **FOOD SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM (FSP)**

**ORIGINATING OFFICE:** **OFFICE OF PROGRAMS**

**SUMMARY:**

Every year we review the utility and telephone allowances to determine if they should increase, decrease or stay the same. Based on the most recent Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Baltimore/ Washington area, the standard and limited utility allowances will decrease. A recent survey of telephone service providers indicates that phone rates have gone up this year. The telephone allowance will increase slightly.

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

Effective **May 1, 2011:**

- The Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) will decrease to $403 per month.
- The Limited Utility Allowance (LUA) will decrease to $244 per month.
- The telephone allowance will increase to $40.

CARES will be modified on April 9, 2011 to support these changes.

We have attached updated Food Supplement Program Manual pages.

**INQUIRIES:**

Please direct FSP policy questions to Rick McClendon at 410-767-7307 and systems questions to Gwen Frazier 410-767-7318.

cc: FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHR Help Desk

## 600.1 STANDARDS FOR ELIGIBILITY AND MAXIMUM ALLOTMENTS

A. The standards for the following appear in Section 600, page 2.

1. Column A - Maximum Gross Monthly Income Standards (130% of poverty)
2. Column B - Maximum Net Monthly Income Standards (100% of poverty)
3. Column C - Maximum Gross Income Standard for Elderly and Disabled Separate Household (165% of poverty)
4. Column D - Thrifty Food Plan/Maximum Allotment

B. Standards 1, 2, and 3 are used to determine household eligibility and not for computing allotments.

## 600.2 FORMULA CALCULATION

A. Multiply the household's net monthly income by 30%.
B. Round the product up to the next whole dollar if any cents result.
C. Subtract the product from the maximum allotment amount for the household size found in Column D, Section 600.

NOTE: In an initial month, if the allotment is less than $10, no benefit is issued. Except in an initial month, all eligible one and two person households must be issued the minimum allotment of $16.

## 600.3 DEDUCTION STANDARDS

Standard Deduction

| | |
|---|---|
| Household size up to and including 3 people | $142 |
| Household of 4 | $153 |
| Household size of 5 | $179 |
| Household size of 6 or more | $205 |
| Excess Shelter Deduction up to | $458 |
| Homeless Household Shelter Allowance | $143 |
| Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) | $403 |
| Limited Utility Allowance (LUA) | $244 |
| Telephone Standard | $40 |

* The excess shelter deduction does not apply to households with an aged or disabled member. These households receive an uncapped shelter deduction.

## 600.4 Determining the Food Supplement Program (FSP) Allotment

A. Determine a household's monthly FSP allotment by using the Basis of Issuance Tables:

1. Calculate the household's net monthly income.
2. Compare the household's net monthly income to the maximum net monthly income standard, Column B below. Households that are not categorically eligible for FSP benefits will have net monthly incomes that are lower than or equal to the amounts shown in Column B.
3. Find the allotment by reading in the Basis of Issuance Tables, down to the appropriate income and across to the appropriate household size.

NOTE: A household that is categorically eligible is entitled to any allotment shown in the appropriate column on the tables. Persons in household sizes of one or two and categorically eligible are eligible for a benefit of $16, even if the tables do not show a benefit amount at their net income levels.

| Household Size | Col. A<br>Maximum Gross Monthly Income* 130% of Poverty | Col. B<br>Maximum Net Monthly Income* 100% of Poverty | Col. C<br>Monthly Income Elderly/Disabled Separate Household* 165% of Poverty | Col. D<br>Maximum Allotment |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | $1174 | $ 903 | $1490 | $200 |
| 2 | 1579 | 1215 | 2004 | 367 |
| 3 | 1984 | 1526 | 2518 | 526 |
| 4 | 2389 | 1838 | 3032 | 668 |
| 5 | 2794 | 2150 | 3547 | 793 |
| 6 | 3200 | 2461 | 4061 | 952 |
| 7 | 3605 | 2773 | 4575 | 1052 |
| 8 | 4010 | 3085 | 5089 | 1202 |
| Each Additional Member | +406 | +312 | +515 | +150 |

* Maximum gross and net monthly income figures are not used for computing the FSP allotment. They are included as a reference for determining the household's eligibility.