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TO: **Income Maintenance Supervisors**
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff
W-2 Agencies
Workforce Development Boards
Job Center Leads and Managers
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators

FROM: Amy Mendel-Clemens
Technical Assistance, Training & Education
Section
Bureau of Eligibility Management
Division of Health Care Financing

BEM/DWS OPERATIONS MEMO					
No:	06-43 (Revised 09/15/06)				
DATE:	SEPTEMBER 12, 2006				
FS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input type="checkbox"/>	SC	<input type="checkbox"/>
CTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	CC	<input type="checkbox"/>	W-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
FSET	<input type="checkbox"/>	EA	<input type="checkbox"/>	CF	<input type="checkbox"/>
JAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	JC	<input type="checkbox"/>	RAP	<input type="checkbox"/>
WIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	EP	<input type="checkbox"/>	★
PRIORITY: HIGH					

SUBJECT: **2007 FOODSHARE PROGRAM MASS CHANGE**

CROSS REFERENCE: FoodShare Handbook, Chapter 8.1.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2006

PURPOSE

This memo announces the FoodShare (FS) cost of living adjustments (COLA) and the new utility standard amounts for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2007.

BACKGROUND

Each year the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) adjusts the gross and net income limits, the allotment tables, standard deduction amounts, and the excess shelter expense deduction. Adjustments to the standard utility allowance amounts are based on statewide average utility costs. Please note the decrease in the heating standard (HSUA). The decrease is due to a milder heating season this past year compared to the previous year. This is based on the most recent statistics provided by the Wisconsin Department of Energy (DOE).

POLICY**FS COLA FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2007**

Reference table changes have been made in CARES, so that ongoing cases will use the new amounts effective October 1, 2006. The mass change will occur on September 15, 2006. The FS mass change will select all FS cases and process eligibility for October using the new reference table changes and standards. Eligibility determinations for FS for October 2006 and later will use the new amounts. These amounts are found in CARES tables TFST and TFEP. They will be added to Chapter 8.1 of the FS Handbook in the next release.

Following are changes effective October 1, 2006:

Maximum Excess Shelter Deduction

The maximum excess shelter deduction will increase to \$417.

Income Limit & Allotment Changes

AG Size	200%FPL Gross Income Limit	165% FPL Gross Income Limit	130% FPL Gross Income Limit	100% FPL Net Income Limit	Maximum Allotment
1	\$ 1634	\$ 1348	\$ 1062	\$ 817	\$ 155
2	\$ 2200	\$ 1815	\$ 1430	\$ 1100	\$ 284
3	\$ 2768	\$ 2283	\$1799	\$ 1384	\$ 408
4	\$ 3334	\$ 2750	\$ 2167	\$ 1667	\$ 518
5	\$ 3900	\$ 3218	\$ 2535	\$ 1950	\$ 615
6	\$ 4468	\$ 3685	\$ 2904	\$ 2234	\$ 738
7	\$ 5034	\$ 4153	\$ 3272	\$ 2517	\$ 816
8	\$ 5600	\$ 4620	\$ 3640	\$ 2800	\$ 932
9	\$ 6168	\$ 5088	\$ 4009	\$ 3084	\$1049
10	\$ 6736	\$ 5556	\$ 4378	\$ 3368	\$1166
11	\$ 7304	\$ 6024	\$ 4747	\$ 3652	\$1283
12	\$ 7872	\$ 6492	\$ 5116	\$ 3936	\$1400

(AG = Assistance Group, FPL = Federal Poverty Level)

NOTE ➤ Notices of decision that impact reduced change reporting requirements will also be adjusted to reflect the new 130% FPL income reporting limits.

Standard Deduction

The Standard Deduction increase is based on the Assistance Group size.

AG Size	Standard Deduction Amount
1-3	\$134
4	\$139
5	\$162
6 or more	\$186

NOTE ➤ The following deductions will not change:

- Maximum monthly Dependent Care - \$200 or \$175 depending on the age of the child.
- Medical Expenses – Monthly expenses over \$35 for elderly or disabled individuals only.

New Standard Utility Allowances

Standard	Allowance	Definition
HSUA	\$298	Heating
LUA	\$211	No heat, with at least two other qualifying expenses
EUA	\$75	Non-heat electric
FUA	\$28	Cooking fuel used for other than heating, gas, LP, etc.
WUA	\$66	Water, well installation and maintenance, sewer, septic tank installation and maintenance, and/or wastewater treatment
PUA	\$27	Telephone
TUA	\$15	Garbage and trash pick up

PROCEDURE

Any cases that are run for FS eligibility after September 15, 2006 will have the new SUA standard amounts applied effective October 1, 2006.

OTHER PROGRAMS

There is no change in the shelter and utility budgeting for MA. Actual shelter and utility costs still need to be entered into CARES to assure the correct MA eligibility and post eligibility determinations. See the Medicaid Eligibility Handbook (MEH) for specific policy.

CONTACTS

BEM CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

DHFS/DHCF/BIMA/JB