

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT
Secretary Roberta Gassman
201 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707-7946
Telephone: (608) 266-7552
FAX: (608) 266-1784
www.dwd.state.wi.us



State of Wisconsin
Governor Jim Doyle

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY SERVICES
Secretary Kevin R. Hayden
1 West Wilson Street
P.O. Box 7850
Madison, WI 53707-7850
Telephone: (608) 266-9622
FAX: (608) 266-7882
www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov

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:	07- 49				
DATE:	08/30/2007				
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: **2008 FoodShare Program Mass Change**

CROSS REFERENCE: FoodShare Handbook, Chapter 8.1.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2007

PURPOSE

This memo announces the FoodShare (FS) cost of living adjustments (COLA) and the new utility standard amounts for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2008.

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.

POLICY**FS COLA FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2008**

Reference table changes have been made in CARES, so that ongoing cases will use the new amounts effective October 1, 2007. The mass change will occur on September 8, 2007. 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 2007 and later will use the new amounts. These amounts can be found in CARES tables TFST and TFEP. They will be added to Chapter 8.1 of the FS Handbook in the next release.

The following changes are effective October 1, 2007:

Maximum Excess Shelter Deduction

The maximum excess shelter deduction will increase to \$431.

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	\$1702	\$1404	\$1107	\$851	\$162
2	\$2282	\$1883	\$1484	\$1141	\$298
3	\$2862	\$2361	\$1861	\$1431	\$426
4	\$3442	\$2840	\$2238	\$1721	\$542
5	\$4022	\$3318	\$2615	\$2011	\$643
6	\$4602	\$3797	\$2992	\$2301	\$772
7	\$5182	\$4275	\$3369	\$2591	\$853
8	\$5762	\$4754	\$3746	\$2881	\$975
9	\$6342	\$5233	\$4123	\$3171	\$1097
10	\$6922	\$5712	\$4500	\$3461	\$1219
11	\$7502	\$6191	\$4877	\$3751	\$1341
12	\$8082	\$6670	\$5254	\$4041	\$1463

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

NOTE ➤ Notices of decision that state 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 AG size.

AG Size	Standard Deduction Amount
1-3	\$134
4	\$143
5	\$167
6 or more	\$191

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	\$285	Heating
LUA	\$203	No heat, with at least two other qualifying expenses
EUA	\$75	Non-heat electric
FUA	\$26	Cooking fuel used for other than heating, gas, LP, etc.
WUA	\$59	Water, well installation and maintenance, sewer, septic tank installation and maintenance, and/or wastewater treatment
PUA	\$28	Telephone
TUA	\$15	Garbage and trash pick up

PROCEDURE

Any cases that are run for FS eligibility after September 8, 2007, will have the new SUA standard amounts applied effective October 1, 2007.

OTHER PROGRAMS

There is no change in the shelter and utility budgeting for MA. See the Medicaid Eligibility Handbook (MEH) for specific policy.

CONTACTS

BEM CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center