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**State of Wisconsin
Governor Jim Doyle**

**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, Chief
Technical Assistance and Training Section
Bureau of Enrollment Management
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability**

BEM/DFS OPERATIONS MEMO					
No:	09-50				
DATE:	9/08/2009				
FS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input type="checkbox"/>	BC+	<input type="checkbox"/>
SC	<input type="checkbox"/>	CTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	FSET	<input type="checkbox"/>
				BC+ CORE	<input type="checkbox"/>
CC	<input type="checkbox"/>	W-2	<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	<input type="checkbox"/> *
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SUBJECT: 2009 FoodShare Mass Change

CROSS REFERENCE: FoodShare Handbook, Chapter 8.1; Operations Memo 09-11

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2009

PURPOSE:

This memo announces the FoodShare (FS) cost of living adjustments (COLA) and the new Utility Standard amounts for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2009.

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.

Allotments will not be increasing since they were increased with the Passage of the Economic Stimulus package that required States to increase the maximum FS benefit allotments by 13.6% effective April 1, 2009. FS The next increase to the maximum FS allotment may not occur until the year 2013.

POLICY**FS COLA FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2010**

Reference table changes will be made in CARES on September 8, 2009, so that ongoing cases will use the new amounts effective October 1, 2009. The mass change will occur on the weekend of September 11, 2009. 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 2009 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, 2009:

Maximum Excess Shelter Deduction

The maximum excess shelter deduction will increase to \$459.

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	\$1806	\$1490	\$1174	\$903	\$200
2	\$2430	\$2004	\$1579	\$1215	\$367
3	\$3052	\$2518	\$1984	\$1526	\$526
4	\$3676	\$3032	\$2389	\$1838	\$668
5	\$4300	\$3547	\$2794	\$2150	\$793
6	\$4922	\$4061	\$3200	\$2461	\$952
7	\$5546	\$4575	\$3605	\$2773	\$1052
8	\$6170	\$5089	\$4010	\$3085	\$1202
9	\$6794	\$5604	\$4416	\$3397	\$1352
10	\$7418	\$6119	\$4822	\$3709	\$1502
11	\$8042	\$6634	\$5228	\$4021	\$1652
12	\$8666	\$7149	\$5634	\$4333	\$1802

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

NOTE : Notices of decision will reflect the new 130% FPL income reporting limits.

Standard Deduction

The Standard Deduction increase is based on the AG size. This year, the standard deduction for group sizes 1-3 will decrease.

AG Size	Standard Deduction Amount
1-3	\$141
4	\$153
5	\$179
6 or more	\$205

New Standard Utility Allowances

Standard	Allowance	Definition
HSUA	\$419	Heating
LUA	\$292	No heat, with at least two other qualifying expenses
EUA	\$135	Non-heat electric
FUA	\$27	Cooking fuel used for other than heating , gas, LP, etc.
WUA	\$63	Water, well installation and maintenance, sewer, septic tank installation and maintenance, and/or wastewater treatment
PUA	\$29	Telephone
TUA	\$15	Garbage and trash pick up.

*Reminder: All FoodShare cases are given the standard heating allowance.

PROCEDURE

Any cases that are run for FS eligibility after September 8, 2009, will have the new SUA standard amounts applied effective October 1, 2009.

CONTACTS

BEM CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

*Program Categories – FS – FoodShare, MA – Medicaid, BC+ – BadgerCare Plus, SC – Senior Care, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, CC – Child Care, W-2 – Wisconsin Works, FSET – FoodShare Employment and Training, CF – Children First, EA – Emergency Assistance, JAL – Job Access Loan, JC - Job Center Programs, RAP – Refugee Assistance Program, WIA – Workforce Investment Act, Other EP – Other Employment Programs.

DHFS/DHCAA/BEM/JB