



Date: September 13, 2024

DMS Operations Memo 24-18

To: Income Maintenance Supervisors  
Income Maintenance Lead Workers  
Income Maintenance Staff

**Affected Programs:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BadgerCare Plus      | <input type="checkbox"/> Caretaker Supplement              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FoodShare | <input type="checkbox"/> FoodShare Employment and Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SeniorCare           |  |

From: Jonelle Brom, Bureau Director  
Bureau of Eligibility Operations & Training  
Division of Medicaid Services

Autumn Arnold Bureau Director  
Bureau of Enrollment & Eligibility Policy  
Division of Medicaid Services

**FoodShare Cost of Living Adjustments**

**CROSS REFERENCE**

- Operations Memo [23-28](#)
- FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook, [Section 8.1 Tables](#), [Section 4.3.3.8 Self-employment Expenses: Self-employed Child Care Provider](#), [Section 4.4.1.7 Disregarded Assets](#), and [Section 8.1.3 Deductions](#)
- 7 C.F.R. § 273.9(d)

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

October 1, 2024

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Operations Memo is to announce the FoodShare Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA), new Standard Utility Allowance (SUA), and federal standard deductions for meals provided by self-employed child care providers for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2025. FFY 2025 is October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

**BACKGROUND**

Each year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service announces adjustments to FoodShare COLA (income limits for eligibility, maximum allotments, and deduction

amounts), standard utility allowances, and self-employed child care provider meal deductions. The USDA uses the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) to calculate maximum allotments for FoodShare. Based on this year’s TFP, FoodShare maximum allotment amounts will increase. States are required to adjust allotments on October 1 of each year based on the Food and Nutrition Act. Changes to FoodShare benefits resulting from the annual changes cannot be overturned in a fair hearing; however, members still have the right to request a fair hearing.

**POLICY**

**FOODSHARE COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2025**

Effective for October 1, 2024, eligibility determinations for FoodShare will apply the FFY 2025 COLA amounts, standard utility deductions, and self-employed child care provider meal deductions. Members will receive a Notice of Decision if the COLA results in a change of benefits, effective October 1, 2024.

The new amounts are listed in the tables below. These amounts will be added to [Section 8.1.1 Income Limits](#), [Section 8.1.2 Allotment for Monthly Net Income and FoodShare Group Size](#), and [Section 8.1.3 Deductions](#) of the FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook with the next handbook release.

**TABLE 1: FOODSHARE INCOME LIMIT AND ALLOTMENT AMOUNTS**

Monthly Income Limit and Allotment Amounts for FFY 2025					
Assistance Group Size	200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Gross Income Limit	165% FPL Gross Income Limit	130% FPL Gross Income Limit	100% FPL Net Income Limit	Maximum Allotment
1	\$2,510	\$2,071	\$1,632	\$1,255	\$292
2	\$3,408	\$2,811	\$2,215	\$1,704	\$536
3	\$4,304	\$3,551	\$2,798	\$2,152	\$768
4	\$5,200	\$4,290	\$3,380	\$2,600	\$975
5	\$6,098	\$5,030	\$3,963	\$3,049	\$1,158
6	\$6,994	\$5,770	\$4,546	\$3,497	\$1,390
7	\$7,890	\$6,510	\$5,129	\$3,945	\$1,536
8	\$8,788	\$7,249	\$5,712	\$4,394	\$1,756
9	\$9,686	\$7,989	\$6,295	\$4,843	\$1,976
10	\$10,584	\$8,729	\$6,878	\$5,292	\$2,196
Additional Member	\$898	\$740	\$583	\$449	\$220

**MINIMUM ALLOTMENT**

The minimum monthly FoodShare allotment for a categorically eligible food unit that includes one or two people is \$23.

**MAXIMUM EXCESS SHELTER DEDUCTION**

The maximum excess shelter deduction is \$712.

**HOMELESS SHELTER DEDUCTION**

The homeless shelter deduction is \$190.

**STANDARD DEDUCTION**

The standard deduction is based on the size of an assistance group.

**Table 2: FoodShare Standard Deduction for FFY 2025**

Assistance Group Size	Standard Deduction Amount
1-2	\$204
3	\$204
4	\$217
5	\$254
6 or more	\$291

**STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCES**

The Heating Standard Utility Allowance (HSUA) increases to \$538. The Limited Utility Allowance (LUA) increases to \$375. The Electric Utility Allowance (EUA) increases to \$151. The Water and Sewer Allowance (WUA) increases to \$103. The Cooking Fuel Utility Allowance (FUA) increases to \$47. The Phone Utility Allowance (PUA) remains \$30. The Trash Utility Allowance (TUA) increases to \$27. Standard utility allowances for FFY 2025 are listed below.

**Table 3: FoodShare Standard Utility Allowances for FFY 2025**

SUA Code	Amount	Type of Utility Allowance
<b>HSUA</b>	\$538	Heating
<b>LUA</b>	\$375	Non-heat electric with at least one other qualifying expense
<b>EUA</b>	\$151	Electric Utility Allowance
<b>WUA</b>	\$103	Water and Sewer
<b>FUA</b>	\$47	Cooking Fuel
<b>PUA</b>	\$30	Telephone
<b>TUA</b>	\$27	Garbage and Trash

***SELF-EMPLOYED CHILD CARE PROVIDER DEDUCTIONS***

Self-employed child care providers deduct the cost of meals from the income earned by their child care business. They may report the actual cost of the meals, or they may use the federal standard deductions. Reported costs may not exceed allowable federal standard deductions based on the eligible tier.

Table 4: USDA CACFP Federal Standard Deductions

<b>Meals</b>	<b>Tier 1 (185% FPL households)</b>	<b>Tier 2 (all other households)</b>
Breakfast	\$1.66	\$0.60
Lunch or supper	\$3.15	\$1.90
Supplement (snacks)	\$0.93	\$0.26

***ASSET LIMIT***

The asset limit for Elderly, Blind, or Disabled (EBD) food units with at least one EBD member, with gross monthly income over 200% of the FPL increases to \$4,500.

The lottery and gambling limit increases to \$4,500. The non-EBD food units subject to regular SNAP rules asset limit increases to \$3,000.

**CONTACTS**

DHS CARES Problem Resolution Team

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