

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



August 23, 2005

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-46-05

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change  
 Federal Law or Regulation Change  
 Court Order  
 Clarification Requested by One or More Counties  
 Initiated by CDSS

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
 ALL FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS  
 ALL CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS  
 ALL QUALITY CONTROL PROGRAM COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: FOOD STAMP INFORMATION ON COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLAs): MAXIMUM FOOD STAMP ALLOTMENTS, STANDARD DEDUCTION, SHELTER DEDUCTION, HOMELESS HOUSEHOLD SHELTER ALLOWANCE, STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCE (SUA), INCOME ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS AND FOOD STAMP TABLES OF COUPON ISSUANCE – **EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2005**

The Food Stamp Act of 1977 (as amended) provides annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) to the Program's allotments, eligibility standards, and certain deductions. This letter transmits final information on the COLAs for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2006 (October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006). The food stamp COLAs are effective on October 1, 2005, for Change and Quarterly Reporting (QR) households. If October falls mid-quarter in a QR household, the COLA is effective October 1 and is treated as a county-initiated mid-quarter change per MPP Section 63-509(h) (I) (F). (Food Stamp QR regulations became final on August 5, 2005 and can be accessed on-line at [http://www.dss.cahw.net.gov/ord/CDSSmanual\\_240.htm](http://www.dss.cahw.net.gov/ord/CDSSmanual_240.htm). A separate All County Letter (ACL) will also be sent announcing that QR regulations are final. The ACL will explain changes made to regulations since emergency regulations were effective July 1, 2004.)

Maximum Allotment

Food Stamp allotments are adjusted by the United States Department of Agriculture annually on October 1 to account for changes in the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP). As a result of an increase in the cost of the TFP and requirements of the Food Stamp Act, maximum allotments for FFY 2006 have changed as shown below.

Household Size:	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	Each Additional Person
	\$152	\$278	\$399	\$506	\$601	\$722	\$798	\$912	+114

Standard Deduction, Shelter Deduction, and Homeless Household Shelter Allowance

The homeless household shelter allowance and the standard deduction for households of four (4) and under will remain the same as last year's (See ATTACHMENT I).

However, the standard deduction for households of five (5) and six (6) and the shelter deduction have changed.

- Standard Deductions for FFY 2006:

Household Size	Standard Deductions
1 to 4 persons	\$134 (no change)
5 persons	\$157
6 or more persons	\$179

- Shelter Deduction: \$400
- Homeless Household Shelter Allowance: \$143 (unchanged)

#### Standard Utility Allowance (SUA)

As a result of the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, the **new SUA amount will be \$223 for FFY 2006.**

#### Income Eligibility Standards

The income eligibility standards have changed and the new amounts must be applied to allotments for October 2005. Eligibility standards are in ATTACHMENT I, which contains charts of the “Net and Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards” and the “Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards for Households Where Elderly/Disabled Are a Separate Household.”

#### Tables of Benefit Issuance

ATTACHMENT II is a set of tables of coupon issuance. These tables must be used for all cases when calculating allotments for October 2005 through September 2006. The tables are bracketed to identify food stamp allotment amounts that apply to categorically eligible (CE) households. Please note that there are no CE bracketed amounts for a household of three (3) because the food stamp allotment amounts end before the maximum net monthly income limit of \$1,341 for a household of three (3) is reached.

#### Stuffer Notice

The FS 11 (ENG/SP), the general mass change notice, is included in this package. This notice informs clients about changes in food stamp allotments and the SUA deduction amount. Prior to duplication, County Welfare Departments (CWDs) must ensure that the FS 11 notice contains the county specific address that clients should use to send written state hearing requests.

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CWDs may opt to use the mass change notice to inform all households on or before October 1, 2005 of the new food stamp benefits and deductions in accordance with the MPP Section 63-504.39; or to notify households via the news media or post this information in certification offices, issuance locations or other sites frequented by certified households. However, with either option taken for mass change notification, households must be informed of the change no later than October 1, 2005.

### **Camera Ready Copies and Translations**

For a camera-ready copy of English and Spanish forms, contact the Forms Management Unit at (916) 657-1907. If your office has Internet access, you may obtain these forms from the CDSS web page at [www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/On-lineFor\\_271.htm](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/On-lineFor_271.htm). Per MPP Section 21-115.2, all other translations will be posted on our website on an ongoing basis. Copies of the translated forms and publications in Russian, Chinese, Vietnamese and Cambodian can be obtained at [www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/formsandPu\\_274.htm](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/formsandPu_274.htm). For questions on translated materials, please contact Language Services at (916) 651-8876.

### **Retroactive Benefits**

If the CWD is unable to complete the necessary programming to reflect the appropriate changes in the October allotments, lost benefits must be restored retroactive to October 1, 2005 per MPP Section 63-802. Restoration of lost benefits must be completed as soon as it is administratively feasible, but no later than the December 2005 allotment issuance date.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Frederick Hodges, Program Analyst, Food Stamp Policy Implementation Unit, at (916) 653-7973.

Sincerely,

***Original signed by:***  
RICHTON YEE, Chief  
Food Stamp Branch

Attachments