

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



August 23, 2007

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I -45-07

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, 2007.**

REFERENCE: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE (FNS) APPROVAL OF CALIFORNIA'S SUA AND CALIFORNIA'S NEW LIMITED UTILITY ALLOWANCE (LUA), DATED AUGUST 2, 2007, AND ALLOWANCE INCREASE EFFECTIVE **OCTOBER 1, 2007.**

The Food Stamp Act of 1977 (as amended) provides annual COLAs to the Food Stamp Program's allotments, eligibility standards, and certain deductions. This letter transmits final information on the COLAs for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2008 (October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008). Food stamp COLAs are effective on October 1, 2007 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 Manual Policies and Procedures (MPP) Section 63-509(h)(1)(F).

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 2008 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
	\$162	\$298	\$426	\$542	\$643	\$772	\$853	\$975	+\$122

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I -45-07
FS COLA for FFY-2008

Page Two

Standard Deduction, Shelter Deduction, and Homeless Household Shelter Allowance

The homeless household shelter allowance and the standard deduction for households of three (3) or fewer persons will remain the same as last year's (See ATTACHMENT I).

However, the standard deduction for households of four (4), five (5), and six (6) or more persons, and the shelter deductions have changed.

- Standard Deductions for FFY 2008:

Household Size	Standard Deductions
1 to 3 persons	\$134 (no change)
4 persons	\$143
5 persons	\$167
6 or more persons	\$191

- Shelter Deduction: \$431
- Homeless Household Shelter Allowance: \$143 (unchanged)

Standard Utility Allowance (SUA)

SUA amount is \$274 for FFY 2008, effective October 1, 2007.

Limited Utility Allowance (LUA)

LUA amount is \$79 for FFY 2008, effective October 1, 2007. A household that does not qualify for the SUA, but incurs expenses for at least two separate utilities other than heating and cooling is eligible for a LUA.

Telephone Utility Allowance (TUA)

TUA amount is unchanged and remains \$20 for FFY 2008. A household that is not eligible for the SUA or LUA, but incurs a telephone expense, or an expense for an equivalent form of communication is eligible to receive a TUA.

Income Eligibility Standards

The income eligibility standards have changed and the new amounts must be applied to allotments for October 2007. 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."

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I -45-07
FS COLA for FFY-2008

Page Three

Tables of Benefit Issuance

ATTACHMENT II is a set of tables of benefit issuance. These tables must be used for all cases when calculating allotments for October 2007 through September 2008. 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 \$1,431 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/LUA deduction amount. There is no change in the TUA deduction. 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.

In accordance with the MPP Section 63-504.39, CWDs must inform all households on or before October 1, 2007 of the new food stamp benefits and deductions. CWDs may opt to use the mass change notice or may notify households via the news media or may post this information in certification offices, issuance locations or other sites frequented by certified households. However, households must be informed of the changes by October 1, 2007.

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.dss.cahwnet.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 all other required languages can be obtained at www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu_274.htm. For questions on translated materials, please contact Language Services at (916) 651-8876.

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I -45-07
FS COLA for FFY-2008

Page Four

Retroactive Benefits

If a 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, 2007, per MPP Section 63-802.3. Restoration of lost benefits must be completed as soon as it is administratively feasible, but no later than the December 2007 allotment issuance date.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Frederick Hodges III, Program Analyst, Food Stamp Employment & Special Projects Unit, at (916) 653-7973.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

RIGHTON YEE, Chief
Food Stamp Branch

Attachments