



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

September 12, 2013

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-52-13

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 CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS
ALL QUALITY CONTROL PROGRAM COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLAs):
MAXIMUM SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) ALLOTMENTS, STANDARD DEDUCTION, SHELTER DEDUCTION, HOMELESS HOUSEHOLD SHELTER ALLOWANCE, STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCE (SUA), LIMITED UTILITY ALLOWANCE (LUA), TELEPHONE UTILITY ALLOWANCE (TUA), INCOME ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS AND CALFRESH TABLES OF COUPON ISSUANCE – **EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2013.**

REFERENCE: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE (FNS) APPROVAL OF CALIFORNIA'S SUA, LUA, AND TUA DATED JUNE 28, 2013, AND ALLOWANCE INCREASE EFFECTIVE **OCTOBER 1, 2013.**
ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) 09-12, ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) 12-25, AND ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE (ACIN) I-46-12 AND I-41-13

This letter transmits information on the COLAs for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014, for the following period October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014. The CalFresh COLAs provided in this letter are effective October 1, 2013 for all households.

Maximum Allotment

Allotments are adjusted by FNS annually on October 1 to account for changes in the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP). Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the maximum and minimum allotments for household sizes remain unchanged for the period of October 1, 2013 through October 31, 2013. ARRA raised the maximum allotments by 13.6 percent of the June 2008 value of the TFP and provided that benefits could not decline below this level.

Income eligibility standards for FFY 2014 are listed in ATTACHMENT 1. However, under the ARRA the maximum and minimum allotments remain unchanged for the period of October 1, 2013 through October 31, 2013.

<u>Household Size:</u>								<u>Each Additional Person</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	
\$200	\$367	\$526	\$668	\$793	\$952	\$1052	\$1202	\$150

Shelter Deduction, Homeless Household Shelter Allowance and Standard Deduction

- The maximum shelter deduction for households without elderly or disabled members for FFY 2014 slightly increased to \$478. (See ATTACHMENT I).
- The homeless household shelter allowance will remain the same as last year's at \$143 (See ATTACHMENT I).
- The standard deductions for households and maximum shelter deductions have changed as shown below (See ATTACHMENT I).

Standard Deductions for FFY 2014:

Household Size	Standard Deductions
1 to 3 persons	\$152
4 persons	\$163
5 persons	\$191
6 or more persons	\$219

The minimum standard deduction for household sizes 1 through 3 increased to \$152 a month.

Standard Utility Allowance

Effective October 1, 2013, the SUA amount increased from \$331 to \$363 for FFY 2014. 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.

- As a result of Assembly Bill (AB) 6 (Chapter 501, Statutes of 2011), effective January 1, 2013, all households were eligible to have the SUA used in the computation of their CalFresh allotment.

Limited Utility Allowance

Effective October 1, 2013, the LUA amount increased from \$104 to \$109 for FFY 2014. 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

The TUA amount is unchanged and remains at \$20 for FFY 2014. 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

Eligibility standards are listed in ATTACHMENT I, which include 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

The Tables of Benefit Issuance have been released to counties under a separate cover. To request a copy of the bracketed tables of issuance for the period of October 1, 2013 through October 31, 2013, please send an e-mail request to shanee.clark@dss.ca.gov.

ARRA Ending

As a result of the sunset of ARRA, effective November 1, 2013, maximum allotments will decrease for CalFresh households. The maximum monthly allotment of \$668 for a 4-person household in the 48 States and DC will decrease from \$668 to \$632, a decrease of \$36. More information will be forthcoming in a subsequent letter, which will provide the reduced allotments for all households.

Stuffer Notice

The CF 11A (ENG/SP), the general mass change notice, is included in this package. This notice informs clients about changes in CalFresh 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 CF 11A 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, 2013 of the new CalFresh 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 no later than October 1, 2013.

Camera-Ready Copies and Translations

For camera-ready copies in English, contact the Forms Management Unit at fmudss@dss.ca.gov.

If your office has internet access you may obtain this form from the CDSS webpage at http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu_271.htm.

When all translations are completed per MPP Section 21-115.2, including Spanish form, they are posted on an on-going basis on our web site. Copies of the translated forms can be obtained at http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu_274.htm.

For questions on translated materials, please contact Language Services at (916) 651-8876. Until translations are available, clients who have elected to receive Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, and written Chinese materials should be sent the GEN 1365 interpretation informing notice with a local contact number.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact your CalFresh county consultant or call the CalFresh Policy Bureau at (916) 654-1896.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

LINDA PATTERSON, Chief
CalFresh Branch
Attachments

**CALFRESH PROGRAM
OCTOBER 1, 2013 – OCTOBER 31, 2013
California Monthly Income Eligibility Standards
Allotments and Deductions**

Net Monthly Income Eligibility Standards (100% of Poverty Level)

Household Size	Net Income
1	\$958
2	1,293
3	1,628
4	1,963
5	2,298
6	2,633
7	2,968
8	3,303
Each Additional Member	+335

Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards (130% of Poverty Level)

Household Size	Gross Income
1	\$1,245
2	1,681
3	2,116
4	2,552
5	2,987
6	3,423
7	3,858
8	4,294
Each Additional Member	+436

Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards For Households Where Elderly/Disabled Are A Separate Household (165% of Poverty Level)

Household Size	Gross Income
1	\$1,580
2	2,133
3	2,686
4	3,239
5	3,791
6	4,344
7	4,897
8	5,450
Each Additional Member	+553

Maximum CalFresh Allotments

Household Size	Allotment
1	\$ 200
2	367
3	526
4	668
5	793
6	952
7	1,052
8	1,202
Each Additional Member	+150

DEDUCTIONS

Standard Deduction	\$152 (HH size 1, 2, & 3)
	\$163 (HH size 4)
	\$191 (HH size 5)
	\$219 (HH size 6+)
Maximum Shelter Deduction	\$478
SUA	\$363
LUA	\$109
TUA	\$20 (unchanged)
Homeless Household Shelter Allowance	\$143 (unchanged)

NOTICE TO ALL CALFRESH RECIPIENTS IMPORTANT — PLEASE READ

Effective October 1, 2013, State and Federal laws provide for the following:

Maximum CalFresh Allotments: These are benefit amounts your household would receive if your household had no income.

Household Size:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Each Additional Person
	\$200	\$367	\$526	\$668	\$793	\$952	\$1052	\$1202	+150

- Additionally, the maximum excess shelter deduction has been increased from \$469.00 to \$478.00.
- The homeless shelter allowance of \$143.00 will remain unchanged.
- However, the standard deduction has changed as follows:

Standard Deductions for FFY 2014:

Household Size	Standard Deductions
1 to 3 persons	\$152.00
4 persons	\$163.00
5 persons	\$191.00
6 or more persons	\$219.00

The Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) has been increased from \$331.00 to \$363.00.

The Limited Utility Allowance (LUA) has been raised from \$104.00 to \$109.00 for FFY 2014, also effective October 1, 2013.

If the SUA/LUA is used as part of your shelter deduction and if you have had no changes in your CalFresh case, your CalFresh benefits may be changed. With the changes in your CalFresh benefits, the amount you will get depends on other household changes. These changes will be included in any notice you get that tells you about other changes in your CalFresh benefits.

If you think we made a mistake in figuring your October CalFresh benefits due to the new amounts for allotments and SUA/LUA you may ask for a state hearing, **within 90 days of when you got this letter** by writing to:

or you may call toll free: 1-800-952-5253. If you are deaf and use TDD, call 1-800-952-8349. When you ask for a state hearing, you must tell us why you think we made a mistake. You can speak for yourself at the hearing or you can have a friend, attorney, or other person speak for you, but you must get these people to help you. You may ask for free legal aid at a legal aid office in your area.

AVISO A TODAS LAS PERSONAS QUE RECIBEN BENEFICIOS DE CALFRESH IMPORTANTE — FAVOR DE LEER

A partir del 1° de octubre de 2013, las leyes federales y estatales estipulan lo siguiente:

Asignaciones máximas de beneficios del Programa de CalFresh: Estas son las cantidades de beneficios que su grupo para fines de CalFresh (de aquí en adelante llamado "grupo") recibiría si el grupo no tuviera ingresos.

Número de personas en el grupo:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Cada persona adicional
	\$200	\$367	\$526	\$668	\$793	\$952	\$1052	\$1202	+150

- Además, el máximo para la deducción por gastos excesivos de vivienda se aumentó de \$469.00 a \$478.00.
- La asignación de \$143.00 para alojamiento/albergue para personas sin hogar permanecerá igual.
- Sin embargo, la deducción normal ha cambiado de la siguiente manera:

Deducciones normales para el año fiscal federal (FFY) 2014:

No. de personas en el grupo	Deducciones normales
1 a 3 personas	\$152.00
4 personas	\$163.00
5 personas	\$191.00
6 ó más personas	\$219.00

La cantidad normal permitida para servicios públicos y municipales (*Standard Utility Allowance* - SUA) ha aumentado de \$331.00 a \$363.00.

También, a partir del 1° de octubre, 2013, la cantidad limitada permitida para servicios públicos y municipales (*Limited Utility Allowance* - LUA) aumentó de \$104.00 a \$109.00 para FFY 2014.

Si la SUA/LUA se usa como parte de su deducción por vivienda y no ha tenido cambios en su caso de CalFresh, es posible que haya un cambio en sus beneficios de CalFresh. Con los cambios en sus beneficios de CalFresh, la cantidad que recibirá dependerá de otros cambios en su grupo. Estos cambios se incluirán en cualquier notificación que reciba indicándole otros cambios en sus beneficios de CalFresh.

Si cree que cometimos un error al calcular la cantidad de sus beneficios de CalFresh correspondientes al mes de octubre, debido a las nuevas cantidades relacionadas con las asignaciones y la SUA/LUA, puede pedir una audiencia con el Estado **antes de que pasen 90 días a partir de la fecha en que recibió esta carta**, escribiendo a:

o llamando gratuitamente al 1-800-952-5253. Si usted es una persona sorda y usa un aparato de telecomunicaciones para las personas sordas (TDD), llame al 1-800-952-8349. Cuando pida una audiencia con el Estado, tendrá que decirnos por qué cree que cometimos un error. Puede representarse a sí mismo en la audiencia o lo puede representar un amigo, abogado u otra persona, pero usted tiene que pedirles a esas personas que le ayuden. Puede pedir asistencia legal gratuita en una oficina de asesoramiento legal (*legal aid office*) en el área donde usted vive.