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DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
GOVERNOR

August 31, 2009

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-61-09

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS  
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), INCOME ELIGIBILITY  
STANDARDS AND FOOD STAMP TABLES OF COUPON  
ISSUANCE – **EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2009.**

REFERENCE: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD  
AND NUTRITION SERVICE (FNS) APPROVAL OF CALIFORNIA'S  
SUA AND LUA, DATED AUGUST 12, 2009, AND ALLOWANCE  
INCREASE EFFECTIVE **OCTOBER 1, 2009.**

This letter transmits final information on the COLAs for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2010 (October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010). Food Stamp COLAs are effective on October 1, 2009 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

Allotments are adjusted by the 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 size remain unchanged for FFY 2010. 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.

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

Although the TFP for the reference family of four decreased 0.83 percent from June 2008 to June 2009, ARRA protects households from this erosion in purchasing power. To illustrate, the maximum monthly allotment for a four-person household in the 48 states and D.C. is currently \$668 and will remain unchanged for FFY 2010. In the absence of ARRA, the maximum allotment for a four-person household would have declined to \$583 for FFY 2010, a \$85 decline from the pre-ARRA FFY 2009 maximum allotment of \$668. Thus, ARRA resulted in an overall increase of \$85 in benefits. Maximum allotments for FFY 2010 have not changed since provisions of ARRA were implemented April 1, 2009, as shown below. Tables of Benefit Issuance also have not changed and will continue to be used through FFY 2010.

<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

Standard Deduction, Shelter Deduction, and Homeless Household Shelter Allowance

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:

- Standard Deductions for FFY 2010:

<b>Household Size</b>	<b>Standard Deductions</b>
1 to 3 persons	\$141
4 persons	\$153
5 persons	\$179
6 or more persons	\$205

- Maximum Shelter Deduction: \$459

Standard Utility Allowance (SUA)

**As a result of a waiver allowed by the Food and Nutrition Service, the SUA amount is unchanged and remains at \$287 for FFY 2010. Without the waiver, the SUA would have been reduced to \$271.**

Limited Utility Allowance (LUA)

**The LUA amount increased from \$83 to \$88 for FFY 2009, effective October 1, 2009.** 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)

**The TUA amount is unchanged and remains at \$20 for FFY 2010.** 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 2009. Eligibility standards are listed 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

The Tables of Benefit Issuance attached with ACL 09-12, due to provisions of the ARRA, are to continue being used for calculating allotments for all households through September 30, 2010.

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, 2009 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, 2009.

**Camera-Ready Copies and Translations**

For a camera-ready copy of the English and Spanish forms, contact the Forms Management Unit at:

[fmudss@dss.ca.gov](mailto:fmudss@dss.ca.gov).

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](http://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](http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu_274.htm).

For questions on translated materials, please contact Language Services at (916) 651-8876.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Alicia Thomason, Program Analyst, at (916) 657-2630, or e-mail to [alicia.thomason@dss.ca.gov](mailto:alicia.thomason@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

CHRISTINE WEBB-CURTIS, Chief  
Food Stamp Branch

Attachments

**FOOD STAMP PROGRAM**  
**OCTOBER 1, 2009 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2010**  
**California Monthly Income Eligibility Standards**  
**Allotments and Deductions**

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

Household Size	Net Income
1	\$903
2	1,215
3	1,526
4	1,838
5	2,150
6	2,461
7	2,773
8	3,085
Each Additional Member	+312

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

Household Size	Gross Income
1	\$1,174
2	1,579
3	1,984
4	2,389
5	2,794
6	3,200
7	3,605
8	4,010
Each Additional Member	+406

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

Household Size	Gross Income
1	\$1,490
2	2,004
3	2,518
4	3,032
5	3,547
6	4,061
7	4,575
8	5,089
Each Additional Member	+515

**Maximum Food Stamp 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	\$141 (HH size 1, 2, & 3)
	\$153 (HH size 4)
	\$179 (HH size 5)
	\$205 (HH size 6+)
Maximum Shelter Deduction	\$459
SUA	\$287
LUA	\$88
TUA	\$20 (unchanged)
Homeless Household Shelter Allowance	\$143 (unchanged)

## NOTICE TO ALL FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS IMPORTANT — PLEASE READ

Effective October 1, 2009, State and Federal laws provide for the following:

**Maximum Food Stamp 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 is raised from \$446.00 to \$459.00.
- The homeless shelter allowance of \$143.00 will remain unchanged.
- However, the standard deduction has changed as follows:

### Standard Deductions for FFY 2010:

Household Size	Standard Deductions
1 to 3 persons	\$141.00
4 persons	\$153.00
5 persons	\$179.00
6 or more persons	\$205.00

The Standard Utility Allowance of \$287.00 will remain unchanged.

The Limited Utility Allowance has been raised from \$83.00 to \$88.00 for FFY 2010, also effective October 1, 2009.

If the SUA/LUA is used as part of your shelter deduction and if you have had no changes in your food stamp case, your food stamp benefits may be changed. With the changes in your food stamp 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 food stamp benefits.

If you think we made a mistake in figuring your October food stamps 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 ESTAMPILLAS PARA COMIDA IMPORTANTE — FAVOR DE LEER

A partir del 1° de octubre de 2009, las leyes federales y estatales estipulan lo siguiente:

**Asignaciones máximas de estampillas para comida:** Estas son las cantidades de beneficios que su grupo para fines de estampillas para comida (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 aumentó de \$446.00 a \$459.00.
- 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) 2010:

No. de personas en el grupo	Deducciones normales
1 a 3 personas	\$141.00
4 personas	\$153.00
5 personas	\$179.00
6 ó más personas	\$205.00

La cantidad normal permitida para servicios públicos y municipales (SUA) de \$287.00 no cambiará.

También, a partir del 1° de octubre de 2009, la cantidad limitada permitida (LUA) aumentó de \$83.00 a \$88.00 para FFY 2010.

Si la SUA/LUA se usa como parte de su deducción por vivienda y no ha tenido cambios en su caso de estampillas para comida, es posible que haya un cambio en sus beneficios de estampillas para comida. Con los cambios en sus beneficios de estampillas para comida, 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 estampillas para comida.

Si cree que cometimos un error al calcular la cantidad de sus estampillas para comida 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.