

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



February 13, 2001

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-12-01

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
FOOD STAMP PROGRAM COORDINATORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

SUBJECT: DISASTER FOOD STAMP PROGRAM HANDBOOK UPDATE REFLECTING  
INCREASED EXCESS SHELTER DEDUCTION EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2001

This letter transmits revised reproducible pages to the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Service, "Disaster Food Stamp Program Handbook." Effective March 1, 2001, the shelter expense deduction was increased from \$300 to \$340 for new applications and recertifications occurring after the effective date. As a result of the increase in the shelter expense deduction, the disaster gross income limit for the income and resource test has also increased. These amounts cannot be applied to food stamp households with certification periods beginning prior to the above effective date. The revised pages replace documents found in the EXHIBITS section of the handbook as follows:

EXHIBIT A,

Page 2 of item titled "Disaster Food Stamps, Fact Sheet"

EXHIBIT E, Items titled:

- a) "Food Stamp Program October 1, 2000 – September 30, 2001 Net Monthly Income Standards and Monthly Allotments and Deductions, (previously dated October 1, 1999 – September 30, 2000).
- b) "Eligibility Verification Chart," page 1. The disaster gross income limits provided in ACIN I-110-00 dated November 16, 2000 still apply to households certified prior to March 1, 2001.

Food Stamp Program Coordinators will receive an extra copy of this letter for forwarding their county's Food Stamp Program Disaster Coordinator. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Varaniece Hall of the Food Stamp Bureau at (916) 657-3500.

**Original document signed by**

GARY SWANSON, Chief  
Food Stamp Branch

Attachments (3)

damage to a home or property necessary for work, temporary shelter expenses, expenses for moving out of an evacuated area, expenses related to protecting a home or business from the disaster, and expenses due to a disaster-related injury or death. For those household certified or recertified on or after March 1, 2001, the limits for household income and cash resource, minus disaster expenses, for a month are

Household Size	Income & Resources Effec.10/1/00	Effec. 3/1/01
1	\$1,130	\$1,170
2	1,372	1,412
3	1,614	1,654
4	1,855	1,895
5	2,097	2,137
6	2,339	2,379
7	2,580	2,620
8	2,822	2,862

You will be asked to provide the social security number for household members if known.

RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS: If you are eligible, you should get food stamps within 3 days after you apply. You may get food stamps in one of several ways:

- the food stamp office may give or mail the food stamps directly to you,
- you may be given (or receive in the mail) a paper or card you can take to a bank or other place to get your food stamps, or
- you may be given a plastic card that you can use to buy food.

This varies by area.

The amount of benefits a household gets depends on the

number of people in the household.

Household Size	Food Stamp For a Month
1	\$130
2	238
3	341
4	434
5	515
6	618
7	683
8	781

Food stamps come in books worth different amounts. A household member should sign each coupon book.

USING FOOD STAMPS: You may use food stamps in any store that takes them. Most grocery stores take food stamps. You can only use food stamps to buy food or to buy seeds or plants for a garden to grow food for your own use. You cannot buy alcoholic drinks, tobacco, vitamins, toilet paper, or paper towels with food stamps. It is a very serious crime to sell your coupons for cash or drugs.

You must have the book cover to spend food stamps worth more than \$1. The store will give you change (in food stamps or up to \$1 in cash change) if you do not have the exact amount you need.

NONDISCRIMINATION: If you think you have not been treated fairly because of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, religious creed, or political beliefs, you should write to the USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Rm. 326-W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> & Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C.

Eligibility/Verification Chart (48 States and D.C.)

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>The Household</b>	
Residency	<p>Must have been living in the disaster area at the time of the disaster.</p> <p>May be eligible if it is temporarily living outside of the disaster area but within the state at the time of the disaster.</p>	
Purchase Food	Must plan on purchasing food during the benefit period.	
Adverse Affect	<p>Must have experienced at least one of the following adverse effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loss of food, coupons or ATPs</li> <li>• damage to or destruction of the household's home or self-employment business (e.g., complete destruction, loss of roof or walls, destruction of heating equipment).</li> <li>• disaster related (expenses not expected to be reimbursed during the benefit period (e.g., home/business protection, disaster related personal injury; including funeral expenses).</li> <li>• loss or inaccessibility of income including reduction or termination of income or a delay in receipt of income for half the benefit period.</li> <li>• Inaccessible liquid resources (e.g., banks are closed).</li> </ul>	
Income and Resource test	<p>Total <b>income received</b> during the disaster benefit period, <b>plus</b> accessible <b>liquid resources</b>, <b>minus</b> certain <b>disaster-related expenses</b> shall <b>not exceed</b> the <b>disaster gross income limit</b>.</p>	
<b>Household Size</b>	<b>Effective 3/1/01<sup>1</sup> Disaster Gross Income Limit</b>	<b>Maximum Allotment</b>
1	1170	130
2	1412	238
3	1654	341
4	1895	434
5	2137	515
6	2379	618
7	2620	683
8	2862	781

<sup>1</sup> These figures are effective March 1, 2001 and include all necessary calculations (e.g., calculation for 1 person household: maximum net monthly income = \$696; standard deduction = \$134; shelter deduction = \$340; 696 + 134 + 340 = 1170) These income limits only apply to households with certification periods beginning on or after 3/1/01.

Each Additional Member	+242	+98
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California Department of Social Services

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM  
OCTOBER 1, 2000 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2001  
California Net Monthly Income Eligibility Standards  
Allotments and Deductions

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

Household Size	Net Income
1	\$ 696
2	938
3	
4	1,421
5	1,663
6	1,905
7	2,146
8	2,388
Each Add. Member	+242

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

Household Size	Gross Income
1	\$ 905
2	1,219
3	1,533
4	1,848
5	2,162
6	2,476
7	2,790
8	3,104
Each Add. Member	+315

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

Household Size	Net Income
1	\$1,149
2	1,547
3	1,946
4	2,345
5	2,744
6	3,142
7	3,541
8	3,940
Each Add. Member	+399

Maximum Food Stamp Allotments

Household Size	Allotment
1	\$ 130
2	238
3	341
4	434
5	515
6	618
7	683
8	781
Each Add. Member	+98

DEDUCTIONS

Standard Deduction	\$134
Homeless Household Allowance	\$143
Standard Utility Allowance	\$170

**Shelter Deduction \* \$300**

\*Effective **March 1, 2001**, the Shelter \$300 will be raised to **\$340** for new applicants and households with recertification periods beginning on or after the effective date.