

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



November 4, 2004

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-76-04

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
 DISASTER FOOD STAMP PROGRAM
 COORDINATORS
 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
 OCTOBER 1, 2004

This letter transmits revised reproducible pages from the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Service, "Disaster Food Stamp Program Handbook." Effective October 1, 2004, the shelter expense deduction was increased from \$378 to \$388 for new applications and re-certifications occurring on or after the effective date. As the result of the increase in the shelter expense deduction, the disaster gross income limit, which includes income and liquid resources, has also increased. 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:

New Changes to Exhibit E are as follows:

- a) "Food Stamp Program October 1, 2004– September 30, 2005 California Monthly Income Eligibility Standard Allotments and Deductions (replaces the version dated October 1, 2003 – September 30, 2004).
- b) Page 1 includes changes to the "Eligibility/Verification Chart (48 States and D.C.)". Page 2 now includes guidelines relating to income and resource eligibility. Page 3 was added to explain verification requirements during a disaster.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Frederick Hodges III, of the Food Stamp Policy Bureau at (916) 653-7973.

Original Document Signed by:

RIGHTON YEE, Chief
 Food Stamp Branch

Attachments

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. The limits for household income and cash resource, minus disaster expenses, for a month are:

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Income and Resources</u>
1	\$1,298
2	1,563
3	1,828
4	2,093
5	2,377
6	2,664
7	2,929
8	3,194

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

RECEIVING FOOD STAMP BENEFITS:

If you are eligible, you should get food stamp benefits within 3 days after you apply. Your food stamp benefits will be provided in the form of a plastic card, referred to as an EBT card. A household member should sign their EBT card.

When you are given (or receive in the mail) an EBT card, you can take to it any market or grocery store with a Point of Sales (POS) device or other place that accepts the EBT card to buy food.

The amount of benefits a household gets depends on the number of people in the household.

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Food Stamp for a Month</u>
1	\$149
2	274
3	393
4	499
5	592
6	711
7	786
8	898

USING FOOD STAMP BENEFITS:

Most grocery stores will have a POS device and accept food stamp benefits. You can only use food stamp benefits 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 benefits for cash or drugs.

The store will deduct your purchase from your EBT account.

NONDISCRIMINATION: If you think you have not been treated unfairly 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, 14th & Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C.

Requirement	The household...
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"> • loss of food, EBT card • 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), • disaster related expenses not expected to be reimbursed during the benefit period (e.g. home/business repairs, temporary shelter expenses, evacuation expenses, home/business protection, disaster related personal injury including funeral expenses), • loss or inaccessibility of income including reduction or termination of income or a delay in receipt of income for half the benefit period, • inaccessible liquid resources (e.g., banks are closed).
Income and Resource Test	Total income received during the disaster benefit period, plus accessible liquid resources , minus certain disaster-related expenses shall not exceed the disaster gross income limit

Household Size	Disaster Gross Income Limit ¹	Maximum Allotment
1	1,298	149
2	1,563	274
3	1,828	393
4	2,093	499
5	2,377	592
6	2,664	711
7	2,929	786
8	3,194	898
Each Additional Member	+265	+112

¹These figures include all necessary calculations (e.g., for a 1 person household: maximum net monthly income = \$776; standard deduction = \$134; maximum shelter deduction = \$388; 776 + 134 + 388 = 1,298)

Term	Definition	
Disaster Gross Income Limit	the maximum gross income limit for the DFSP equals the sum of the maximum monthly net income limits PLUS the maximum standard income and shelter expense deductions.	
Shelter Expense Deduction	the maximum excess shelter expense deduction from the regular FSP, until that deduction is eliminated.	
Income	the total take-home pay of household members that is expected to be received during the disaster benefit period. Does not include disaster assistance payments expected to be received during the benefit period from Federal, State or Local governments or disaster assistance agencies.	
Take-home Pay	includes the wages a household actually receives after taxes and all other payroll withholding, public assistance payments or other unearned income, and net self-employment income.	
Accessible Liquid Resources	includes cash on hand and all funds in checking and saving accounts; it does NOT include IRA accounts, disaster insurance payments, or disaster assistance received or expected to be received during the benefit period, and payments from Federal, state or local government agencies or disaster assistance organizations.	
Deductible Disaster Expenses	expenses that the household has paid or expects to pay during the disaster benefit period ; however, if the household receives or anticipates receiving a reimbursement for these expenses during the disaster period, only the net expense are deductible.	
Maximum Disaster Benefit	an allotment equal to the maximum monthly allotment established for the regular Food Stamp Program for the appropriate household size.	
	If a household...	Then...
	is certified under the regular Program	the allotment equals the household's regular monthly allotment PLUS a supplement amount to bring the household's disaster benefit up to the maximum disaster food stamp allotment for the household size.
	was participating in the regular Program, received a replacement allotment, and was later determined eligible for the DFSP	it would receive only a supplement amount to bring the household's allotment up to the maximum disaster allotment for the appropriate household size.

Applicant's Information	Status	How to Verify
Identity	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo ID, or • Two documents that verify identity and residency
Residency	Where Possible	Utility bills, tax bills, insurance policies or bills.
Household Composition	If questionable	After taking the application, the EW can ask applicant to orally list the names, ages, and birthdays of household members.
Loss or inaccessibility of liquid resources and countable income	Where possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain a list of banks that were closed due to the disaster. • Check with the State Banking Commission.
Food Loss	If questionable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check disaster impact maps for likely damage to household. • Check with power company. <p>NOTE: An extended power outage can cause food spoilage.</p>

**FOOD STAMP PROGRAM
OCTOBER 1, 2004 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2005
California Monthly Income Eligibility Standards
Allotments and Deductions**

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

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

Household Size	Net Income	Household Size	Gross Income
1	\$ 776	1	\$1,009
2	1,041	2	1,354
3	1,306	3	1,698
4	1,571	4	2,043
5	1,836	5	2,387
6	2,101	6	2,732
7	2,366	7	3,076
8	2,631	8	3,421
Each Additional Member	+265	Each Additional Member	+345

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

Maximum Food Stamp Allotments

Household Size	Gross Income	Household Size	Allotment
1	\$1,281	1	\$149
2	1,718	2	274
3	2,155	3	393
4	2,592	4	499
5	3,030	5	592
6	3,467	6	711
7	3,904	7	786
8	4,341	8	898
Each Additional Member	+438	Each Additional Member	+112

Standard Deduction-	DEDUCTIONS \$134 (HH size 1,2,3, & 4) \$153 (HH size 5) \$175 (HH size 6+)	Shelter Deduction	\$388
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Homeless Household Shelter Allowance \$143 (unchanged)

SUA 210