STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814

November 23, 1993

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 93-90

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

[ ] State Law Change
[X] Federal Law Change
[ ] Court Order or Settlement Agreement
[ ] Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
[ ] Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCE (SUA) FOR 1994

In accordance with Food Stamp Manual Section 63-502.353(d), the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) has been adjusted to reflect changes in the cost-of-living. The new SUA for the calendar year 1994 will be $145. It must be applied to all Food Stamp cases that use the SUA so that the January 1, 1994 allotment reflects the increased amount. This change is based upon an increase in the Fuel and Other Utilities Component of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U).

In order to comply with the requirements for mass change, the County Welfare Departments (CWDs) must inform Food Stamp households of this change and its effective date. Reference copies of the general notice, Notice To All Food Stamp Recipients (FS 5) are attached to this letter. CWDs may obtain camera-ready copies of the English and Spanish versions of the FS 5 by contacting the Forms Management Unit at (916) 657-1907 or CALNET 437-1907. CWDs may reformat the English language version to accommodate specific County systems. Translations in Chinese, Lao, Cambodian, and Vietnamese will be forwarded to the County Forms Coordinator by the Language Services Bureau when available.

CWDs are encouraged to mail a copy of the FS 5 to all Food Stamp households with the January allotment. Those CWDs that do not mail a copy of this general notice to all households must utilize the news media or post this information in certification offices, issuance locations or other sites frequented by certified households. If any other change is to be effective with the January allotment, the Food Stamp Notice of Change (DFA 377.4) must be used to provide individual notice to the household.

The SUA amount will be changed in the Food Stamp Handbook Section 63-1101.26 to reflect this adjustment and the revision will be released separately.

If you have questions, please have your staff contact Suzanne McNamee at (916) 657-3815 or CALNET 437-3815.

MICHAEL C. GENEST
Deputy Director
Welfare Programs Division

Attachments

NOTICE TO ALL FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS

(January 1, 1994 Standard Utility Allowance Increase)

As of January 1, 1994 the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) is raised from $141.00 to $145.00. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved this raise, which is based upon a change in the Consumer Price Index.

If the SUA is used as part of your shelter deduction AND if you have had no other changes in your Food Stamp case, your Food Stamp benefits may be raised. If you have had other changes in your Food Stamp case, you will receive a separate notice which includes this raise.

If you think we made a mistake in your January allotment because of the SUA raise, you may ask for a state hearing. Your request may be written or verbal, but it must state that you want a hearing and why you think this action is wrong. Your request for a state hearing must be made within 90 days of the date of this action.

If you wish to make a request for a state hearing write to:

You may also request a hearing by calling the following numbers (you may need to dial "1" first):

Toll Free Number: (800) 952-5253 For the Deaf Only: TDD (800) 952-8349

To get ready for a hearing:

- You can come alone or you can bring a friend, attorney, or anyone else to help you.
- Free legal help may be available at a local legal aid office.

If you have questions, ask your worker.

AVISO A TODAS LAS PERSONAS QUE RECIBEN ESTAMPILLAS PARA COMIDA

(Aumento de la Cantidad Normal Permitida por Servicios Públicos y Municipales del 1 de enero de 1994)

A partir del 1 de enero de 1994, se aumentará la Cantidad Normal Permitida por Servicios Públicos y Municipales (SUA) de $141.00 a $145.00. El Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos (USDA) ha autorizado este aumento. Este cambio está basado en un cambio en el índice de precios al consumidor.

Si se usa la SUA como parte de su deducción por vivienda Y si no ha tenido otros cambios en su caso de estampillas para comida, es posible que se aumenten sus beneficios de estampillas para comida. Si ha tenido otros cambios en su caso de estampillas para comida, recibirá otra notificación por separado que incluye este aumento.

Si cree que cometimos un error en su asignación para enero a causa del aumento de la SUA, puede solicitar una audiencia con el estado. Su petición puede ser por escrito u oralmente, pero debe indicar que desea una audiencia y por qué cree que esta acción está equivocada. Su petición para una audiencia con el estado debe ser presentada dentro de los 90 días siguientes a la fecha de esta acción.

Si desea solicitar una audiencia con el estado, escriba a:

También puede solicitar una audiencia llamando a los siguientes números (es posible que tenga que marcar el "1" primero):

Número gratuito: (800) 952-5253 Para los sordos solamente: TDD (800) 952-8349

Para prepararse para una audiencia:

- Puede venir solo(a) o traer una amistad, un abogado, o a cualquier otra persona para que le ayude.
- Es posible que obtenga asesoramiento legal gratuito en alguna oficina local de asistencia legal (legal aid).

Si tiene preguntas aclárelas con su trabajador.