



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 3, 2014

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-53-14

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, 2014.**

REFERENCE: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE (FNS) APPROVAL OF CALIFORNIA'S SUA, LUA, AND TUA DATED JUNE 25, 2014, AND ALLOWANCE INCREASE EFFECTIVE **OCTOBER 1, 2014.**

This letter transmits information on the COLAs for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015, for the following period October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015. The CalFresh COLAs provided in this letter are effective October 1, 2014 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). The new maximum allotments for all households are listed in the table below.

<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>	
\$194	\$357	\$511	\$649	\$771	\$925	\$1022	\$1169	\$146

Income eligibility standards for FFY 2015 are also listed in ATTACHMENT 1.

Shelter Deduction, Homeless Household Shelter Allowance and Standard Deduction
The maximum shelter deduction for households without elderly or disabled members for FFY 2015 slightly increased to \$490. (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 2015:

Household Size	Standard Deductions
1 to 3 persons	\$155
4 persons	\$165
5 persons	\$193
6 or more persons	\$221

The minimum standard deduction for household sizes 1 through 3 slightly increased to \$155 a month.

Standard Utility Allowance

Effective October 1, 2014, the SUA amount increased from \$363 to \$373 for FFY 2015. 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.

Limited Utility Allowance

Effective October 1, 2014, the LUA amount increased from \$109 to \$113 for FFY 2015. 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 2015. 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”, “Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards for Households Where Elderly/Disabled Are a Separate Household” and “Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards for Modified Categorical Eligibility (MCE)/Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE).

Tables of Benefit Issuance

To request a copy of the bracketed issuance tables for effective October 1, please send an e-mail request to Laurence Lewis at laurence.lewis@dss.ca.gov .

Stuffer Notice

The CF 11 (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 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, 2014 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, 2014.

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, recipients who have elected to receive materials in languages other than English should be sent the English version of the form or notice along with the [GEN 1365-Notice of Language Services](#) and a local contact number.

The CWDs shall ensure that effective bilingual services are provided. This requirement may be met through utilization of paid interpreters, qualified bilingual employees, and qualified employees of other agencies or community resources. These services shall be provided free of charge to the applicant/recipient. In the event that CDSS does not provide translations of a form, it is the county's responsibility to provide the translation if an applicant or recipient requests it. More information regarding translations can be found in MPP Section 21-115.

This ACIN and other CDSS Letters and Notices are available on the internet at:
<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/default.htm>.

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

Attachment

**CALFRESH PROGRAM
OCTOBER 1, 2014 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2015
California Monthly Income Eligibility Standards
Allotments and Deductions**

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

Household Size	Net Income
1	\$973
2	1,311
3	1,650
4	1,988
5	2,326
6	2,665
7	3,003
8	3,341
Each Additional Member	+339

Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards/Income Reporting Threshold (IRT) for Semi-Annual Reporting (SAR) (130% of Poverty Level)

Household Size	Gross Income
1	\$1,265
2	1,705
3	2,144
4	2,584
5	3,024
6	3,464
7	3,904
8	4,344
Each Additional Member	+440

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

Household Size	Gross Income
1	\$1,605
2	2,163
3	2,722
4	3,280
5	3,838
6	4,396
7	4,955
8	5,513
Each Additional Member	+559

Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards for Modified Categorical Eligibility (MCE)/Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) (200% of Poverty Level)

Household Size	Gross Income
1	\$1,946
2	2,622
3	3,300
4	3,976
5	4,652
6	5,330
7	6,006
8	6,682
Each Additional Member	+678

Maximum CalFresh Allotments

Household Size	Allotment
1	\$194
2	357
3	511
4	649
5	771
6	925
7	1,022
8	1,169
Each Additional Member	+146

Deductions

Standard Deduction	\$155 (HH size 1,2 & 3)
	\$165 (HH size 4)
	\$193 (HH size 5)
	\$221 (HH size 6+)
Maximum Shelter Deduction	\$490
SUA	\$373
LUA	\$113
TUA	\$20 (unchanged)
Homeless Household Shelter Allowance	\$143 (unchanged)

NOTICE TO ALL CALFRESH RECIPIENTS IMPORTANT — PLEASE READ

Effective October 1, 2014, 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
	\$194	\$357	\$511	\$649	\$771	\$925	\$1022	\$1169	+146

- Additionally, the maximum excess shelter deduction has increased from \$478.00 to \$490.00.
- The homeless shelter allowance of \$143.00 remains unchanged.
- The standard deductions have changed as follows:

Standard Deductions for FFY 2015:

Household Size	Standard Deductions
1 to 3 persons	\$155.00
4 persons	\$165.00
5 persons	\$193.00
6 or more persons	\$221.00

The Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) of \$363.00 increased to \$373.00.

The Limited Utility Allowance (LUA) of \$109.00 slightly increased to \$113.00.

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, 2014, las leyes estatales y federales estipulan lo siguiente:

Asignaciones máximas de beneficios del Programa de CalFresh: Estas son las cantidades de beneficios que su hogar recibiría si su hogar no tuviera ingresos.

Número de personas en el hogar:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Cada persona adicional
	\$194	\$357	\$511	\$649	\$771	\$925	\$1022	\$1169	+146

- Además, la cantidad máxima para la deducción por gastos excesivos de vivienda aumentó de \$478.00 a \$490.00.
- La asignación de \$143.00 para alojamiento/albergue para personas sin hogar permanecerá igual.
- Las deducciones normales cambiaron de la siguiente manera:

Deducciones normales para el año fiscal federal (FFY) 2015:

No. de personas en el hogar	Deducciones normales
1 a 3 personas	\$155.00
4 personas	\$165.00
5 personas	\$193.00
6 ó más personas	\$221.00

La cantidad normal permitida de \$363.00 para servicios públicos y municipales (*Standard Utility Allowance* - SUA) aumentó a \$373.00.

La cantidad limitada permitida de \$109.00 para servicios públicos y municipales (*Limited Utility Allowance* - LUA) aumentó levemente a \$113.00.

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 hogar. 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.