



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

JUL 31 2008

Subject: Cost-of-Living Adjustments to the Maximum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Allotments

To: All Regional Directors
Food Stamp Program

Attached are the fiscal year (FY) 2009 Cost-of-Living adjustments to the SNAP maximum allotments, deductions, and income eligibility standards for the 48 States and D.C., Guam, and the Virgin Islands. The maximum allotment for a 4-person household has increased from \$542 to \$588, reflecting an 8.5 percentage increase, the largest Thrifty Food Plan increase in over two decades.

The standards also incorporate the following provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill:

- **Increasing the minimum benefit**—The minimum benefit amount has been indexed to 8 percent of the one-person Thrifty Food Plan, which effectively increases the minimum allotment for households of one and two persons from \$10 to \$14 ($.08 \times \$176 = \14.08 rounded to the nearest whole dollar). In Guam and the Virgin Islands, the minimum benefit amount has increased from \$10 to \$21 and \$18, respectively.
- **Increasing the minimum standard deduction**—The minimum standard deduction has increased from \$134 to \$144.

These adjustments are scheduled to go into effect on October 1, 2008. State agencies that have questions regarding these adjustments should contact their respective Regional Office representative. Regional office staff who have questions should contact their respective liaison in the Certification Policy Branch.

Arthur T. Foley
Director
Program Development Division

Attachment(s)

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Friday, August

The contents of this guidance document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

**SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
OCTOBER 1, 2008 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2009**

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

Household Size	48 States, DC, Guam, Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	867	1084	997
2	1167	1459	1342
3	1467	1834	1687
4	1767	2209	2032
5	2067	2584	2377
6	2367	2959	2722
7	2667	3334	3067
8	2967	3709	3412
Each additional member	300	375	345

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

Household Size	48 States, DC, Guam, Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	1127	1409	1296
2	1517	1896	1745
3	1907	2384	2193
4	2297	2871	2642
5	2687	3359	3090
6	3077	3846	3539
7	3467	4334	3987
8	3857	4821	4436
Each additional member	390	488	449

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

Household Size	48 States, DC, Guam, Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	1430	1788	1645
2	1925	2407	2214
3	2420	3025	2783
4	2915	3644	3353
5	3410	4263	3922
6	3905	4882	4491
7	4400	5500	5060
8	4895	6119	5630
Each additional member	495	619	570

**SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
MAXIMUM MONTHLY ALLOTMENTS
OCTOBER 2008 TO SEPTEMBER 2009**

MAXIMUM SNAP ALLOTMENTS

Household Size	48 States and DC
1	\$176
2	\$323
3	\$463
4	\$588
5	\$698
6	\$838
7	\$926
8	\$1058
Each additional person	\$132

Household Size	Guam
1	\$260
2	\$476
3	\$682
4	\$867
5	\$1029
6	\$1235
7	\$1365
8	\$1560
Add on	\$195

Household Size	Virgin Islands
1	\$226
2	\$415
3	\$595
4	\$756
5	\$898
6	\$1077
7	\$1191
8	\$1361
Add on	\$170

**SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
DEDUCTIONS
OCTOBER 2008 TO SEPTEMBER 2009**

STANDARD DEDUCTIONS

Area	Household Size			
	1 -3	4	5	6+
48 States and DC	\$144	\$147	\$172	\$197
Alaska	\$246	\$246	\$246	\$246
Hawaii	\$203	\$203	\$203	\$226
Guam	\$289	\$294	\$344	\$393
Virgin Islands	\$127	\$147	\$172	\$197

MAXIMUM SHELTER DEDUCTIONS

Area	Maximum Amount
48 States and DC	\$446
Alaska	\$713
Hawaii	\$601
Guam	\$524
Virgin Islands	\$352