



311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: # 20-09

Effective Date: January 1, 2020

Issuance Date: 12/5/19

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND CASE MANAGERS**

FROM: NETSANET KIBRET, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'N. Kibret', is written over the name 'NETSANET KIBRET'.

**RE: 2020 DECREASE IN SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM UTILITY ALLOWANCES**

**PROGRAM AFFECTED: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
(SNAP)**

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

Summary

Annually the Family Investment Administration (FIA) reviews the utility and telephone allowances to determine if they should increase, decrease or stay the same. Based on the most recent Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Baltimore/Washington area, the standard and limited utility allowances will decrease for 2020. The telephone allowance will remain the same.

Action Required

Effective January 1, 2020:

- The Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) will decrease from \$404 to \$392 (-\$12) per month.
- The Limited Utility Allowance (LUA) will decrease from \$247 to \$240 (-\$7) per month.
- The telephone allowance will remain \$40.

The new allowances will migrate into CARES on December 9, 2019.

Attachment

SNAP Manual Section 600

Inquiries

For TCA, TDAP and SNAP policy-related questions, please complete the [FIA Policy Information Request Form](#) found on Knowledge Base as shown in the screenshot below.

For CARES/systems related inquiries, please contact fia.bsdm@maryland.gov.

The screenshot displays the DHS Knowledge Base website. The top navigation bar includes 'Administrations', 'Tools', 'Resources', 'Links', and 'Local Offices'. A search bar is present. The main content area is titled 'Family Investment Administration' and 'Contact us with your FIA Program Eligibility Policy Question'. A sidebar on the left lists various categories, with 'Contact us with your FIA Program Eligibility Policy Question' highlighted. The main content area features a 'FIA Policy Information Request' form with instructions and a 'Required' field for 'Email address *'. The right sidebar contains contact information for Carrie A. Durham, JD and Candice A. Roberts, FIA Executive Assistant.

- c: DHS Executive Staff
Constituent Services
DHS Help Desk
FIA Management Staff
Office of Administrative Hearings

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION	SNAP MANUAL	
STANDARDS FOR INCOME AND DEDUCTIONS	Section 600	Page 1

600.1 Standards for Eligibility and Maximum Allotments

- A. The standards for the following appear in Section 600, page 2.
1. Column A - Maximum Gross Monthly Income Standards (130% of poverty)
 2. Column B - Maximum Net Monthly Income Standards (100% of poverty)
 3. Column C - Maximum Gross Income Standard for Elderly and Disabled Separate Household (165% of poverty)
 4. Column D - Thrifty Food Plan/Maximum Allotment
- B. Standards 1, 2, and 3 are used to determine household eligibility and not for computing allotments.

600.2 Formula Calculation

- A. Multiply the household's net monthly income by 30%.
- B. Round the product up to the next whole dollar if any cents result.
- C. Subtract the product from the maximum allotment amount for the household size found in Column D, Section 600.

NOTE: In an initial month, if the allotment is less than \$10, no benefit is issued. Except in an initial month, all eligible one and two person households must be issued the minimum allotment of \$16.

600.3 Deduction Standards

Standard Deductions	
Household size up to and including 3 people-----	\$167
Household of 4-----	\$178
Household size of 5-----	\$209
Household size of 6 or more-----	\$240
Excess Shelter Deduction-----up to	\$569
Homeless Household Shelter Allowance-----	\$153
Standard Utility Allowance (SUA)-----	\$392
Limited Utility Allowance (LUA)-----	\$240
Telephone Standard-----	\$40

* The excess shelter deduction does not apply to households with an aged or disabled member. These households receive an uncapped shelter deduction.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION	SNAP MANUAL	
STANDARDS FOR INCOME AND DEDUCTIONS	Section 600	Page 2

600.4 Determining the SNAP Allotment

A. Determine a household's monthly food supplement allotment by using the Basis of Issuance Tables:

1. Calculate the household's net monthly income.
2. Compare the household's net monthly income to the maximum net monthly income standard shown in Column B below. Households that are not categorically eligible for food supplement benefits will have net monthly incomes that are lower than or equal to the amounts shown in Column B.
3. Find the allotment by reading in the Basis of Issuance Tables, down to the appropriate income and across to the appropriate household size.

NOTE: A household that is categorically eligible is entitled to any allotment shown in the appropriate column on the tables. Persons in household sizes of one or two and categorically eligible are eligible for a monthly benefit of **\$16**, even if the tables do not show a benefit amount at their net income levels. (Please see Section 409 of the SNAP for information on the minimum state supplement to SNAP benefits for households with a member aged 62 and older.)

Household Size	Maximum Gross Monthly Income* 130% of Poverty	Maximum Net Monthly Income* 100% of Poverty	Monthly Income Elderly/Disabled Separate Household* 165% of Poverty	Maximum Allotment
1	\$1,354	\$1,041	\$1,718	\$194
2	\$1,832	\$1,410	\$2,326	\$355
3	\$2,311	\$1,778	\$2,933	\$509
4	\$2,790	\$2,146	\$3,541	\$646
5	\$3,269	\$2,515	\$4,149	\$768
6	\$3,748	\$2,883	\$4,757	\$921
7	\$4,227	\$3,251	\$5,364	\$1,018
8	\$4,705	\$3,620	\$5,972	\$1,164
Each additional member	\$479	\$369	\$608	\$146

* Maximum gross and net monthly income figures are not used for computing the food supplement allotment. They are included as a reference for determining the household's eligibility.