**DATE: September 30, 2020 October 2, 2020**

**OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM #20-09-08**

**SUBJECT: Revised** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Mass Grant Changes

**TO:** Executive Directors

**FROM:** Inez Titus

Director

Bureau of Operations

**PURPOSE**

To release changes to SNAP that are effective **October 1, 2020,** in the following areas:

• Limited Utility Allowance Deduction

• Maximum Shelter Deduction

• Standard Deductions

• Homeless Shelter Deduction

• Income Eligibility Standards

• Maximum Thrifty Food Plan

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), has revised the income eligibility standards, the maximum thrifty food plan, the maximum shelter deduction, the standard deductions, and homeless shelter deduction. There are no changes to the minimum benefit, telephone allowance, heating standard utility allowance, the non-heating SUA, PA CAP benefit amounts, and the asset limits. The Department of Human Services (DHS) has updated the Limited SUA for October 2020.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **The following amounts must be used when computing October 2020 SNAP benefits:** | | |
| Limited SUA | | $ 59 |
| Maximum Shelter Deduction | | $ 586 |
| Homeless Shelter Deduction | | $157 |
| Standard Income Deduction Based on Household Size | | 1-3 persons        $ 167  4 persons           $ 181  5 persons           $ 212  6+ persons         $ 243 |
| **There are no changes to SNAP in the following areas for October 2020:** | | |
| Heating SUA | $ 594 | |
| Non-Heating SUA | $ 308 | |
| Telephone Allowance | $ 33 | |
| Minimum Benefit | $ 16 | |
| **Asset Limits** | | |
| Non-Categorically Eligible Households with an Elderly or Disabled household member | $3500 | |
| Non-Categorically Eligible households with a disqualified or sanctioned household member | $2250 | |

**INCOME ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS OCTOBER 2020**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Household Size** | **100% FPIGS** | **130% FPIGS** | **160%**  **FPIGS** | **165% FPIGS** | **200% FPIGS** | **Maximum Thrifty Food Plan** |
| **1** | $1,064 | $1,383 | $1,702 | $1,755 | $2,128 | $ 204 |
| **2** | $1,437 | $1,868 | $2,299 | $2,371 | $2,874 | $ 374 |
| **3** | $1,810 | $2,353 | $2,896 | $2,987 | $3,620 | $ 535 |
| **4** | $2,184 | $2,839 | $3,494 | $3,603 | $4,368 | $ 680 |
| **5** | $2,557 | $3,324 | $4,091 | $4,219 | $5,114 | $ 807 |
| **6** | $2,930 | $3,809 | $4,688 | $4,835 | $5,860 | $ 969 |
| **7** | $3,304 | $4,295 | $5,286 | $5,451 | $6,608 | $1,071 |
| **8** | $3,677 | $4,780 | $5,883 | $6,067 | $7,354 | $1,224 |
| **9** | $4,051 | $5,266 | $6,482 | $6,683 | $8,102 | $1,377 |
| **10** | $4,425 | $5,752 | $7,080 | $7,299 | $8,850 | $1,530 |
| **Each Additional Member** | $ 374 | $ 486 | $ 598 | $ 616 | $ 748 | $ 153 |

The revised values will be added to the Client Information System (CIS) Reference Table. Most households participating in SNAP as of the close of business on September 11, 2020, will have their SNAP allotments adjusted automatically through the Mass Change process. This change will be reflected in the October 2020 benefit issuance. e-CIS will automatically calculate the SNAP benefits for all openings after September 14, 2020, using the current figures for September and the new figures for October.

**Client Notice**

No automated client notices will be sent this year. Information on the Mass Grant Change will be available via press release and social media updates.

**Pennsylvania Combined Application Project (PA CAP)**

There will be no Mass Grant Change for PA CAP budgets. The benefit levels remain the same as the 2020 COLA values. The PA CAP benefit amounts are:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Household income w/COLA | Shelter costs below $196 benefit amount | Shelter cost at or above $196 benefit amount |
| $805.10 | $92 | $119 |
| $825.10 | $86 | $113 |

**Case Alerts**

The CAO worker will have approximately **seven** workdays in which to take appropriate action and clear the alerts listed below after the Mass Grant Change and before the deadline for the October benefits change for the first digit cases.

**REMINDER:** It is very important that all cases are completed before the Mass Grant Change runs on September 12, 2020, or all information will be lost, and the CAO will have to re-enter all information for the case.

1. SNAP Budgets with an Active Override Record - #86

During the SNAP Mass Change process, the system will check all SNAP budgets to determine if an active override exists. If an override exists, a case alert will be automatically set for the affected SNAP budget. The Mass Change process will automatically recalculate the net income for the override budget but will not change the existing override benefit amount.

Caseload management will create Case Alert No. 86, type MCEX, Override Exists, Review Due to Mass Change, for each override budget. Alert No. 86 will be created after the Mass Change runs. It will have an immediate due date and must be worker-cleared. CAOs are to review these records and take appropriate action.

CAOs are to review identified records to determine the appropriateness of the override benefit amount.

**NOTE:** Any budgets with an increase or decrease of $100 or more in SNAP will also receive alert 086. CAOs must review these cases, re-run eligibility, and determine if the benefit amount is accurate.

**NOTE:** Budgets that have any decrease in benefits will also get alert 86. These cases will need to be reviewed, re-run eligibility, and make sure the appropriate notice is generated.

1. SNAP Budgets that Fail Mass Change - #30

Budgets that fail the gross or net income tests and budgets with a person count of zero on CQFBNF will be posted to an alert No. 30, type MCEX. CAOs are to review these records and re-run eligibility.

**REMINDER:** SNAP budgets that were in termination status before the Mass Grant Change and reinstated after the change must be checked to verify that any benefits issued before October 1, 2020, were issued using the old SNAP values.

**NEXT STEPS**

1. Implement these changes effective October 1, 2020.
2. Review case alerts and take appropriate action.
3. This Operations Memorandum will become obsolete when incorporated into the SNAP Handbook.