

<b>COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES</b> <b>1575 SHERMAN ST., DENVER, COLORADO 80203-1714</b>  <b>AGENCY LETTER</b>	<b>NUMBER:</b> FA-09-16-T
<b>DIVISION OR OFFICE:</b> Office of Self Sufficiency	<b>CROSS REFERENCE NUMBER:</b>  <b>DATE:</b> October 2, 2009
<b>PROGRAM AREA:</b> Food Assistance - FA	<b>DIVISION DIRECTOR:</b> 
<b>TITLE:</b> FISCAL YEAR 2010 COST OF LIVING <b>ADJUSTMENTS TO THE FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM</b> <b>TYPE:</b> I - Information	<b>OFFICE DIRECTOR:</b> 

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this agency letter is to inform the counties of the fiscal year 2010 Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) to the Food Assistance program income eligibility standards and deductions.

**Background:**

The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (USDA, FNS), conducts an annual review of the impact of inflation on the cost of food. Adjustments are then made to increase benefit allotment levels, income eligibility standards, and deductions based on the annual cost of living increase.

**Procedure:**

The following changes will be effective October 1, 2009, upon the implementation of the new COLA:

- Maximum and minimum allotments were increased to their current level upon the implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Under this act, the benefit allotment levels will remain unchanged fiscal year 2010.
- The minimum standard deduction, which is indexed to inflation beginning fiscal year 2010, has decreased from \$144 to \$141 a month for household sizes 1 through 3 and increased for all other household sizes.
- The maximum shelter deduction will increase from \$446 to \$459.
- The net and gross income levels have increased for fiscal year 2010.

Please see following pages for charts that detail the above information.

**Effective October 2009 – September 2010**

**Maximum Food Assistance Benefit Allotments**

Household Size	48 States and DC
1	\$200
2	\$367
3	\$526
4	\$668
5	\$793
6	\$952
7	\$1,052
8	\$1,202
Each additional person	\$150

**Standard Deductions**

Area	Household Size				
	1-2	3	4	5	6+
48 States/DC	\$141	\$141	\$153	\$179	\$205
Alaska	\$241	\$241	\$241	\$241	\$256
Hawaii	\$198	\$198	\$198	\$205	\$235
Guam	\$283	\$283	\$305	\$357	\$409
Virgin Islands	\$124	\$127	\$153	\$179	\$205

**Maximum Shelter Deduction**

Area	Maximum Amount
48 States & DC	\$459
Alaska	\$733
Hawaii	\$618
Guam	\$538
Virgin Islands	\$361

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

Household Size	48 States, DC, Guam, Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$903	\$1,128	\$1,039
2	\$1,215	\$1,518	\$1,397
3	\$1,526	\$1,908	\$1,755
4	\$1,838	\$2,298	\$2,114
5	\$2,150	\$2,688	\$2,472
6	\$2,461	\$3,078	\$2,830
7	\$2,773	\$3,468	\$3,189
8	\$3,085	\$3,858	\$3,547
Each additional member	\$312	\$390	\$359

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

Household Size	48 States, DC, Guam, Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$1,174	\$1,466	\$1,350
2	\$1,579	\$1,973	\$1,816
3	\$1,984	\$2,480	\$2,282
4	\$2,389	\$2,987	\$2,748
5	\$2,794	\$3,494	\$3,214
6	\$3,200	\$4,001	\$3,679
7	\$3,605	\$4,508	\$4,145
8	\$4,010	\$5,015	\$4,611
Each additional member	\$406	\$507	\$466

**Gross Monthly 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	\$1,490	\$1,861	\$1,714
2	\$2,004	\$2,504	\$2,305
3	\$2,518	\$3,148	\$2,896
4	\$3,032	\$3,791	\$3,487
5	\$3,547	\$4,435	\$4,079
6	\$4,061	\$5,078	\$4,670
7	\$4,575	\$5,722	\$5,261
8	\$5,089	\$6,365	\$5,852
Each additional member	\$515	\$644	\$592

**Effective Date:** October 1, 2009

**Supersedes:** FA-08-11-I (only supercedes reference to standard deduction in this Agency Letter) and FA 04-31-I

**Contact Persons:**

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