



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance

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Online Guide Transmittal 2015-52
September 18, 2015

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff

From: *AOS* Anne O'Sullivan, Assistant Commissioner for Change Management

Re: **SNAP: Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) and Standard Utility Allowances Change**

Overview

At the beginning of each Federal fiscal year, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service adjusts SNAP maximum allotments, deductions, and income eligibility standards. These adjustments are based on changes in the cost of living. States are also required to adjust their Standard Utility Allowances (SUA) on an annual basis. The SUA changes are made concurrent with the COLA.

This year, a reduction in energy costs caused the SUAs to decrease which in turn caused SNAP benefits to decrease for many clients. It is anticipated that after the COLA/SUA recalculation most SNAP households will either remain at the same SNAP benefit amount or will see a small decrease in benefit.

The annual SNAP COLA and SUA changes will be processed during the weekend of September 19, 2015. This mass recalculation will impact the household's monthly benefit for October.

Purpose

The purpose of this Online Guide update is to inform staff of:

- the annual COLA changes; and
 - the standard utility allowance changes.
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**New Online
Guide Page**

Topic: SNAP
Book: Scheduled Mailings/Projects
Book: COLA
Page: 2015 SNAP COLA

Questions

If you have any questions, please email the DTA Mailbox.
Systems questions should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.
