

***Food Stamp Program - October 1, 2002
Cost-of-Living Increases and Asset Limit Change
for Disabled Individuals***

FS, SSFSP
State Letter 1236
Field Operations Memo 2002-21

This State Letter and memo implement the annual cost-of-living changes in the Food Stamp Program and the asset limit change for disabled individuals effective October 1, 2002.

COST-OF-LIVING CHANGES:

Maximum Benefit Allotments - The maximum benefit allotment levels for all assistance unit sizes have increased.

Income Eligibility Standards - The Gross, Net, and 165 Percent Income Eligibility Standards have increased.

Shelter Deduction - The Shelter Deduction increased to \$367.

Standard Deduction - The Standard Deduction has been replaced by a deduction that varies according to AU size. This deduction will be adjusted annually for cost-of-living increases.

Standard Utility Allowances - The heating Standard Utility Allowance remains at \$391. The nonheating Standard Utility Allowance remains at \$237. The telephone Standard Utility Allowance remains at \$28.

Homeless Shelter/Utility Deduction - The Homeless Shelter/Utility Deduction remains at \$143.

ASSET LIMIT FOR DISABLED INDIVIDUALS:

The asset limit for disabled individuals has increased to \$3,000. Elderly and disabled individuals are now subject to the same asset limit.



FYI

***Change in Benefit
Availability for Daily
Issuances***

Effective October 7, 2002, food stamp and cash EBT daily issuances will be available to recipients at 11 AM. Food stamp and cash EBT cyclical benefits will continue to be available to recipients at 6 AM on their cyclical start date.

Note: Day 7 Expedited Food Stamp benefits and Day 30 Regular Food Stamp benefits will continue to be available to recipients at 7 PM if authorized on BEACON by 5:00 PM.

This change allows the Department to cancel, either through batch or manually, food stamp and cash benefits which were paid in error.

***BEACON Todays Issued in
September 2002***

BT 95 Changing an Assessed Persons INS Designation (9/13/02)

BT 96 BEACON Release 2.0.18 (9/23/02)

