



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


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Online Guide Transmittal 2024-55
September 20, 2024

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff
From:  Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Local Implementation and Special Populations
Re: SNAP: Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) and Standard Utility Allowances Change

Overview

At the beginning of each Federal fiscal year, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) adjusts SNAP income standards, deduction amounts, and maximum benefit levels to reflect changes in the cost of living. This is known as the “SNAP COLA.”

The Department also recalculates the Standard Utility Allowances (SUAs) every year, per federal rules, and includes the recalculated SUAs with the SNAP COLA. This combined calculation minimizes the frequency of benefit changes communicated to the client and the number of associated notices that a separate recalculation would generate.

The SNAP COLA will be processed over the weekend of September 20, 2024.

Purpose

The purpose of this Online Guide Transmittal is to advise staff of:

- COLA and SUA changes;
- clients impacted by the COLA; and
- related updates to the Online Guide.

**COLA-related
Changes**

The 2024 COLA is expected to increase SNAP benefit levels. This includes increases in the:

- standard deduction;
 - homeless shelter deduction;
 - maximum shelter deduction;
 - maximum benefit level for all household sizes;
 - maximum asset limits;
 - gross income thresholds; and
 - net income thresholds.
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**Revised Online
Guide Pages**

Topic:	Cross Programs
Page:	Helpful Charts and Figures
Topic:	Scheduled Mailings/Projects
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Topic: SNAP
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Questions

If you have any policy or procedural questions, after conferring with the appropriate TAO personnel, please have your Systems Information Specialists or TAO management email them to DTA.Procedural Issues.

Systems issues should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.
