



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

AUG - 2 2011

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

3101 Park  
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA  
22302-1500

SUBJECT: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Fiscal Year (FY) 2012  
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAS)

TO: All Regional Directors  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Attached are the FY 2012 Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAS) to the SNAP income eligibility standards and deductions for the 48 contiguous States and D.C., Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and U.S. Virgin Islands. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the maximum and minimum allotments remain unchanged for the continental United States and the District of Columbia for FY 2012. ARRA raised the maximum SNAP allotments by 13.6 percent of the June 2008 value of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) and provided that benefits could not fall below this level. Although final data for Alaska and Hawaii have yet to be released, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) anticipates that the maximum and minimum allotments will also remain unchanged for FY 2012 due to ARRA. Should adjustments become necessary once final data is released, FNS will issue revised numbers for these areas.

By maintaining the maximum allotment of \$668 for a household size of four, ARRA continues to protect SNAP recipients from any erosion in purchasing power. In the absence of ARRA, the maximum allotment for a 4-person household would have been \$611 for FY 2012. Thus, ARRA resulted in an overall increase of \$57 in SNAP benefits, allowing eligible households to purchase more nutritious food.

The shelter cap values for FY 2012 increased slightly to \$459 for the 48 States and DC. Alaska, Hawaii, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands also had minimal increases in their shelter cap values. The minimum standard deduction for household sizes 1 through 3 increased from \$142 to \$147 a month for the 48 States and DC. Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands also experienced increases in their standard deduction amounts.

The COLAS are effective as of October 1, 2011. State agencies with questions regarding these adjustments should contact their respective Regional Office representatives. Regional Office staff with questions should contact Angela Kline at [Angela.Kline@fns.usda.gov](mailto:Angela.Kline@fns.usda.gov).

Lizbeth Silbermann  
Director  
Program Development Division

Attachment(s)

**SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
OCTOBER 1, 2011 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

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

Household Size	48 States, DC, Guam, Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	908	1,134	1,045
2	1,226	1,532	1,411
3	1,545	1,930	1,777
4	1,863	2,329	2,143
5	2,181	2,727	2,509
6	2,500	3,125	2,875
7	2,818	3,524	3,240
8	3,136	3,922	3,606
Each additional member	319	399	366

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

Household Size	48 States, DC, Guam, Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	1,180	1,474	1,359
2	1,594	1,992	1,835
3	2,008	2,509	2,310
4	2,422	3,027	2,786
5	2,836	3,545	3,261
6	3,249	4,063	3,737
7	3,663	4,581	4,212
8	4,077	5,099	4,688
Each additional member	414	518	476

**Gross Monthly Income 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	1,498	1,870	1,725
2	2,023	2,528	2,328
3	2,548	3,185	2,932
4	3,074	3,842	3,536
5	3,599	4,499	4,139
6	4,124	5,157	4,743
7	4,649	5,814	5,346
8	5,175	6,471	5,950
Each additional member	526	658	604

**SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
MAXIMUM MONTHLY ALLOTMENTS  
OCTOBER 2011 TO SEPTEMBER 2012**

**MAXIMUM SNAP ALLOTMENTS**

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

<b>Household Size</b>	<b>Alaska</b>		
	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Rural 1</b>	<b>Rural 2</b>
1	239	304	371
2	438	559	680
3	627	800	974
4	797	1,016	1,237
5	946	1,207	1,469
6	1,135	1,448	1,762
7	1,255	1,600	1,948
8	1,434	1,829	2,226
Add on	179	229	278

<b>Household Size</b>	<b>Hawaii</b>
1	\$314
2	\$575
3	\$824
4	\$1,046
5	\$1,243
6	\$1,491
7	\$1,648
8	\$1,884
Add on	236

**SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
MAXIMUM MONTHLY ALLOTMENTS  
OCTOBER 2011 TO SEPTEMBER 2012**

**MAXIMUM SNAP ALLOTMENTS**

Household Size	Guam
1	\$295
2	\$541
3	\$775
4	\$985
5	\$1,169
6	\$1,403
7	\$1,551
8	\$1,773
Add on	\$222

Household Size	Virgin Islands
1	\$257
2	\$472
3	\$676
4	\$859
5	\$1,020
6	\$1,224
7	\$1,353
8	\$1,546
Add on	\$193

**MINIMUM SNAP ALLOTMENTS  
OCTOBER 2011 TO SEPTEMBER 2012**

Household Size	48 States and DC	Alaska			Hawaii	Guam	U.S. Virgin Islands
		Urban	Rural 1	Rural 2			
1 - 2	\$16	\$19	\$24	\$30	\$25	\$24	\$21

**SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
DEDUCTIONS  
OCTOBER 2011 TO SEPTEMBER 2012**

**STANDARD DEDUCTIONS**

Area	Household Size			
	1-3	4	5	6+
48 States and DC	\$147	\$155	\$181	\$208
Alaska	\$252	\$252	\$252	\$260
Hawaii	\$208	\$208	\$208	\$239
Guam	\$296	\$310	\$362	\$416
Virgin Islands	\$130	\$155	\$181	\$208

**MAXIMUM SHELTER DEDUCTIONS**

Area	Maximum Amount
48 States and DC	\$459
Alaska	\$734
Hawaii	\$619
Guam	\$539
Virgin Islands	\$362