



Cost of Living Adjustments Fiscal Year 2003

The following memorandum, with enclosed tables, was sent to all food stamp State agencies on August 2, 2002, to alert them to the Fiscal Year 2003 cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) in food stamp maximum allotments, deductions, and income eligibility standards. The COLAs take effect October 1, 2002.

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed are the fiscal year (FY) 2003 cost-of-living adjustments to the Food Stamp Program's allotments for the 48 States and D.C., and the deductions and income eligibility standards for the 48 States and D.C., Alaska, Hawaii, Guam and the Virgin Islands. These adjustments are scheduled to go into effect on October 1, 2002. We are providing these numbers to you now so you can make the necessary changes by that time.

Below is a chart comparing FY 2002 numbers and FY 2003 numbers:

4 Person Household	FY 02	FY 03
Maximum Allotment	\$452	\$465
Maximum Net Income Eligibility Standard	\$1,471	\$1,509
Maximum Gross Income Eligibility Standard	\$1,913	\$1,961
Excess Shelter Expense Deduction	\$354	\$367

We are also sending you a revised basis-of-issuance table. Only one copy is being sent to expedite the mail delivery.

Signed August 2, 2002

Kate Coler
Deputy Administrator
Food Stamp Program