



Department of Human Services  
 311 West Saratoga Street  
 Baltimore MD 21201

**FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION  
 (FIA) INFORMATION MEMO**

Control Number: # 24-32	Effective Date: January 1, 2024
	Issuance Date: February 15, 2024

**TO: LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES (LDSS) DIRECTORS, LDSS DEPUTY/ ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT, FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

**FROM: AUGUSTIN NTABAGANYIMANA, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** *Augustin*  
**DEBBIE RUPPERT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MDH/OES** *Debbie Ruppert*

**RE: 2024 INCREASE IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) AND LONG-TERM CARE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, WAIVER MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (MA) UTILITY ALLOWANCES**

**PROGRAMS AFFECTED: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) AND LONG-TERM CARE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, WAIVER MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (MA)**

**ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS**

**SUMMARY**

The Family Investment Administration (FIA) annually reviews the utility and telephone allowances to determine if they should increase, decrease, or stay the same. The standard and limited utility allowances will increase for the calendar year 2024; the amounts are specified below. The telephone allowance will remain the same.

The increase in the utility allowances is attributed to the change in FIA’s formula to calculate the utility allowances. The U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics discontinued the Consumer Price Index series that we relied on in the past, which resulted in a change in our calculation formula.

**SYSTEM UPDATES**

Effective January 1, 2024:

- The Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) will **increase** from \$505 to **\$551** (+\$46) per month.
- The Limited Utility Allowance (LUA) will **increase** from \$309 to **\$337** (+\$28) per month.
- The telephone allowance **will remain** \$40.

The new allowances will migrate into the Eligibility and Enrollment (E&E) system on January 1, 2024.

**SNAP Policy Manual updates:**

SNAP Manual Section 600

**INQUIRIES:**

Please direct policy questions to FIA Policy by completing the [FIA Policy Information Request Form](#). Montgomery County staff may submit their policy questions via email at [fia.policy@maryland.gov](mailto:fia.policy@maryland.gov). For questions related to E&E, please email [fia.bsdm@maryland.gov](mailto:fia.bsdm@maryland.gov).

For MHC systems questions and issues, contact the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange's Office of Consumer Assistance, Eligibility Policy & Business Integration at 410-547-6327.

For MA policy questions: Direct Non-MAGI and MAGI policy questions to the Maryland Department of Health, Office of Eligibility Services at [mdh.oesinquiries@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.oesinquiries@maryland.gov).

cc: DHS Executive Staff  
MDH Executive Staff  
Constituent Services  
DHS Help Desk  
FIA Management Staff  
Office of Administrative Hearings