

Annual Changes to 3SquaresVT Standards - October 1, 2009

The federal government makes certain changes every year to standards in the 3SquaresVT program, based on the cost of living and the consumer price index (CPI). Below is an explanation of the changes made this year.

Business Expenses for Providing Child Care Meals and Snacks

Meal	2008	2009
Breakfast	\$1.17 per day	\$1.19 per day
Lunch only	\$2.18 per day	\$2.21 per day
Dinner only	\$2.18 per day	\$2.21 per day
Snack	\$.65 per day	\$.66 per day

Business Expenses for Providing Room and Board

Type	2008						2009					
	1	2	3	4	5	6+	1	2	3	4	5	6+
Room Only	137	251	360	458	543	652	142	261	373	474	563	676
2/3 Board	117	215	309	392	465	559	133	245	351	445	529	635
Board Only	176	323	463	588	698	838	200	367	526	668	793	952
Room and 2/3 Board	254	466	669	850	1008	1211	275	506	724	919	1092	1311
Room and Board	313	574	823	1046	1241	1490	342	628	899	1142	1356	1628

- The standard deduction varies by household size:
 - For households of 1 to 3 members, it changes from \$144 to **\$141**.
 - For households of 4 members, it changes from \$147 to **\$153**.
 - For households of 5 members, it changes from \$172 to **\$179**.
 - For households of 6 or more members, it changes from \$197 to **\$205**.
- The shelter cost maximum deduction changes from \$446 to **\$459**.
- The fuel and utility standard with heat or cooling remains at **\$744**.
- The fuel and utility standard without heat changes from \$198 to **\$215**.
- The telephone only standard remains at **\$36.00**.
- The maximum gross and net income levels and thrifty food plan are changing.

3SquaresVT households were notified when their monthly benefit changed because of the new standards.