

STATE OF VERMONT
AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES

DCF

Department for Children and Families

BULLETIN NO.: 08-30

FROM: Joe Patrissi, Deputy Commissioner
Economic Services Division

DATE: September 1, 2008

SUBJECT: 10/1/08 Food Stamps, Reach Up, and Medicaid Standards updates;
2008 Food and Nutrition Act changes; update Agreement to Report Change Form

CHANGES ADOPTED EFFECTIVE 10/1/08

INSTRUCTIONS

- Maintain Manual - See instructions below.**
- Proposed Regulation - Retain bulletin and attachments until you receive Manual Maintenance Bulletin: _____**
- Information or Instructions - Retain until _____**

MANUAL REFERENCE(S):

P-2210	P-2590
P-2420	Forms Manual

The following standards are updated effective October 1, 2008.

All programs

- Business expenses for providing day care meals and snacks
- Business expenses for providing room and board

Medicaid

- Transportation costs for dependent care expense

Medicaid long-term care

- Fuel and utility standard
- Average monthly and daily cost to a private patient of nursing facility services

Food Stamps

- Standard deductions
- Elimination of dependent care maximums
- Shelter cost maximum deduction
- Fuel and utility standard with heat and without heat
- Maximum allotment levels (Thrifty Food Plan amounts and allotment tables)
- Maximum net monthly income levels
- Maximum gross monthly income levels
- Minimum benefit amount
- Formula for households of more than 10 people

Agreement to Report Change, ESD 201A

Annual Food Stamp gross income standards are updated and shown on the reverse side of the Agreement to Report Change (ESD 201A) form. Please recycle all ESD 201A forms dated before October 1, 2008.

Significant changes are indicated by vertical lines in the margin. Changes to clarify, rearrange or correct references without changing the procedure are dotted.

Manual Maintenance

Reach Up Procedures

Remove

Insert

P-2210 C22	(07-40)	P-2210 C22	(08-30)
------------	---------	------------	---------

Medicaid Procedures

P-2420 D1	(07-50)	P-2420 D1	(08-30)
P-2420 D2	(07-40)	P-2420 D2	(08-30)
P-2420 D4	(07-50)	P-2420 D4	(08-30)
P-2420 D5	(07-50)	P-2420 D5	(08-30)

Food Stamps Procedures

P- 2590 A1	(06-08)	P- 2590 A1	(08-30)
P- 2590 A2	(05-30)	P- 2590 A2	(08-30)
P- 2590 B-C1	(05-30)	P- 2590 B-C1	(08-30)
P-2590 D1-D34 (34 pages)	(05-30)	P-2590 D1-D59 (59 pages)	(08-30)

Forms Manual

ESD 201A	(R 10/07)	ESD 201A	(R 08-30)
----------	-----------	----------	-----------

P-2210 Determination and Documentation Eligibility Factors

C. Financial Eligibility Computation (Continued)

- Business Expenses - Providing Day Care Meals and Snacks (effective 10/1/08)

A recipient providing day care for other children in his or her own home is entitled to deduct, as a business expense from earned income, the cost of meals and snacks provided to those children. Use the following standard deductions or actual documented expenses, if higher.

Breakfast	\$1.17 per day
Lunch only	\$2.18 per day
Dinner only	\$2.18 per day
Snack	\$.65 per day

In cases that have documented non-meal related expenses, do the following:

- Manually figure the total monthly meal expense using either the standard deduction table or the actual verified expenses (whichever is higher).
 - Figure the monthly total for non-meal related expenses.
 - Add a) to b) and enter the total in the ACTUALS field on the DCIN panel. For these cases the entries in the meals fields will be disregarded and the amount in the ACTUALS field used.
- Business Expenses - Providing Room and/or Board (effective 10/1/08)

Use either A or B below, whichever is the higher amount, for the business expense deduction.

A.

ACCESS Code	Type	Group Size						
		1	2	3	4	5	6+	
1	Room Only	137	251	360	458	543	652	
2	2/3 Board	117	215	309	392	465	559	
3	Board Only	176	323	463	588	698	838	
4	Room and 2/3	254	466	669	850	1008	1211	
5	Room and	313	574	823	1046	1241	1490	

- The actual documented amount of business expenses for room and/or board providing the amount does not exceed the income received from the roomers and boarders.

P-2420 Eligibility Determination for Medicaid

D. Other Standards

1. SSI Federal Benefit Payment Rate (M222, M243.1, M243.2)

These are used when determining the eligibility of SSI-related adults, allocations to ineligible children and parents, and the amount of income deemed to SSI-related child applicants.

	<u>Effective 1/1/08</u>	<u>1/1/07- 12/31/07</u>
Individual	\$637 per month	\$623 per month
Couple	\$956 per month	\$934 per month
Ineligible child	\$319 per month	\$311 per month

2. Business Expenses - Providing Room and/or Board

Use either A or B below, whichever is the higher amount, for the business expense deduction:

A. Standard monthly deduction, as follows:

Room - Scaled according to the size of the group.

Board - Equal to the thrifty food plan allowance for the group size.

Effective 10/1/08

ACCESS Code	Type	Group Size					
		1	2	3	4	5	6+
1	Room Only	137	251	360	458	543	652
2	2/3 Board	117	215	309	392	465	559
3	Board Only	176	323	463	588	698	838
4	Room and 2/3 Board	254	466	669	850	1008	1211
5	Room and Board	313	574	823	1046	1241	1490

B. The actual documented amount of business expenses for room and/or board providing the amount does not exceed the income received from the roomers and boarders.

10/1/08

Bulletin No. 08-30

P-2420 D2

P-2420 Eligibility Determination for MedicaidD. Other Standards (Continued)**3. Business Expenses - Providing Day Care Meals**

A recipient providing day care for other children in his or her own home is entitled to deduct, as a business expense from earned income, the cost of meals and snacks provided to those children. Use the following standard deductions or actual documented expenses, if higher.

Effective 10/1/08

Breakfast	\$1.17 per day
Lunch only	\$2.18 per day
Dinner only	\$2.18 per day
Snack	\$.65 per day

In cases that have documented non-meal related expenses, do the following:

- a) Manually figure the total monthly meal expense using either the standard deduction table or the actual verified expenses (whichever is higher).
- b) Figure the monthly total for non-meal related expenses.
- c) Add a) to b) and enter the total in the ACTUALS field on the DCIN panel. For these cases the entries in the meals fields will be disregarded and the amount in the ACTUALS field used.

4. Dependent Care Expense Maximums - ANFC-Related Medicaid Only (M352.4)

Effective 10/1/08

\$175.00 per month per person for children two years of age or older and for incapacitated adults.

\$200.00 per month per child for children under two years of age.

Transportation: \$0.585 per mile.

10/1/08

Bulletin No. 08-30

P-2420 D4

P-2420 Eligibility Determination for MedicaidD. Other Standards (Continued)**8. Allocation to Community Spouse - Long-Term Care (M432.31 and P-2430 E)**

- a. Maximum income allocation. If actual verified housing costs excluding fuel and utilities are greater than the base housing cost, allow up to the maximum allocation.

<u>Effective 1/1/08</u>	<u>(10/1/07 – 12/31/07)</u>
\$2,610.00	\$2,541.00

- b. Standard income allocation. (Maintenance income standard) This is 150 percent of the current poverty level for 2 people.

<u>Effective 1/1/08</u>	<u>(10/1/07 – 12/31/07)</u>
\$1,757.00	\$1,712.00

- c. Shelter standard This is 30 percent of the maintenance income standard in paragraph b, above.

<u>Effective 1/1/08</u>	<u>(10/1/07 – 12/31/07)</u>
\$ 528.00	\$ 514.00

1. Fuel and utility standard. Current food stamp fuel and utility standard is on page P-2590 A1.

<u>Effective 10/1/08</u>	<u>(10/1/07 – 9/30/08)</u>
\$ 744.00	\$ 572.00

2. Base housing cost

<u>Effective 1/1/06</u>	<u>(10/1/05 – 12/31/05)</u>
\$ 0.00	\$ 9.00

9. Allocation to Each Family Member Living with a Community Spouse - Long-Term Care (M432.3) This is the maximum allocation if family member has no income.

<u>Effective 01/1/08</u>	<u>(10/1/07 – 12/31/07)</u>
\$ 585.67	\$ 570.67

10/1/08

Bulletin No. 08-30

P-2420 D5

P-2420 Eligibility Determination for Medicaid

D. Other Standards (Continued)

Allocation if family member has income:

- Maintenance income standard (P-2420 D#8b)
- Gross income of family member
- Remainder

Remainder ÷ by 3 = Allocation

10. Community Maintenance Allowance in the Home-and-Community-Based Waiver Program (P-2430 H)

<u>Effective 1/1/08</u>	<u>(1/1/07 – 12/31/07)</u>
\$ 950.00	\$ 925.00

11. Medicare Copayments for Nursing Home Care (P-2430 E)

For the 21st through 100th day that a Medicare eligible person is in a nursing home, Medicare will pay the daily costs in excess of the following patient co-payment:

<u>Effective 1/1/08</u>	<u>(1/1/07 – 12/31/07)</u>
\$ 128.00	\$ 124.00

12. Standard Deductions for Assistive Community Care Services (ACCS) and Personal Care Services (PCS) (M421.23) (M421.24) (P-2421 D)

	<u>Effective 1/1/03</u>	<u>10/1/00 - 12/31/02</u>
ACCS	\$ 27.00 per day; \$ 810.00 per month	\$ 600.00 per month
PCS	\$ 17.83 per day; \$ 535.00 per month	\$ 396.00 per month

13. Average Cost to a Private Patient of Nursing Facility Services (M440.42)

This amount is used to calculate a penalty period for an individual in a nursing home or in the home-and-community-based waiver program.

<u>Effective 10/1/08</u>
\$ 6541.77 per month
\$ 218.06 per day

10/1/08

Bulletin No. 08-30

P-2590 A1

P-2590 Reference MaterialsA. Calculating Net Income1. Standard Deduction (Effective 10/1/08)

The standard deduction varies by household size:

\$144 for households of 1 to 3 members

\$147 for households of 4 members

\$172 for households of 5 members

\$197 for households of 6 or more members

2. Basic Medical Liability (Effective 1/1/81)

The base amount for medical liability is \$35. Refer to section 273.9(d)(3) of the food stamp manual.

3. Dependent Care Maximum Deduction (Effective 10/1/08)

There is no cap on the dependent care deduction for food stamps.

4. Shelter Cost Maximum Deduction (Effective 10/1/08)

The maximum deduction for households without elderly or disabled members is \$446.

5. Fuel and Utility Standards (Effective 10/1/08)

With heat \$744.00

Without heat \$198.00

Phone only \$ 36.00

See P-2510 E on selecting the correct standard and ACCESS manual - STAT 5.14 (UTIL Panel) and STAT 5.17 (PHON Panel) for ACCESS-related information.

10/1/08

Bulletin No. 08-30

P-2590 A2

P-2590 Reference MaterialsA. Calculating Net Income (Continued)6. Business Expenses - Providing Day Care Meals (Effective 10/1/08)

A recipient providing day care for other children in his or her own home is entitled to deduct, as a business expense from earned income, the cost of meals and snacks provided to those children. Use the following standard deductions or actual documented expenses, if higher.

Breakfast	\$1.17 per day	Dinner only	\$2.18 per day
Lunch only	\$2.18 per day	Snack	\$.65 per day

In cases that have documented non-meal related expenses, do the following:

- Manually figure the total monthly meal expense using the higher of the standard deduction table or the actual verified expenses. Convert weekly (bi-weekly) expenses to a monthly figure.
- Figure the monthly total for non-meal related expenses.
- Add a) to b) and enter the total in the ACTUALS field on the DCIN panel. For these cases the entries in the meals fields will be disregarded and the amount in the ACTUALS field used.

Business Expenses - Providing Room and Board (Effective 10/1/08)

The following table outlines the monthly business expenses allowance for room and board. If the client provides documentation of separate identifiable costs of providing room and/or board that exceed the applicable table amount, allow the higher amount. In no case, however, may the business expense allowed exceed the amount of gross income received from the roomer and boarder.

ACCESS Code	Type	Group Size					
		1	2	3	4	5	6+
1	Room Only	137	251	360	458	543	652
2	2/3 Board	117	215	309	392	465	559
3	Board Only	176	323	463	588	698	838
4	Room and 2/3	254	466	669	850	1008	1211
5	Room and Board	313	574	823	1046	1241	1490

If five or more roomer/boarders are in one payment group, the case should be handled FIAT. The RBIN panel allows only four roomer/boarders per panel. Splitting one payment onto two RBIN panels results in an incorrect business expense deduction.

10/1/08

Bulletin No. 08-30

P -2590 B-C1

P-2590 Reference MaterialsB. Maximum Resources Allowed

\$2000 for all households, except

\$3000 for households if at least one member is disabled or age 60 or older.

Refer to section 273.8b of the food stamp manual.

C. Maximum Gross and Net Income, Maximum Allotments (Thrifty Food Plan) (10/1/08)

Household Size	Maximum gross monthly income to enable elderly or disabled member to be a separate household	Maximum gross monthly income	Maximum net monthly income	Maximum allotment levels
	165% of the FPL	130% of the FPL	100% of the FPL	Thrifty Food Plan
1	\$1,430	\$1,127	\$867	\$176
2	1,925	1,517	1,167	323
3	2,420	1,907	1,467	463
4	2,915	2,297	1,767	588
5	3,410	2,687	2,067	698
6	3,905	3,077	2,367	838
7	4,400	3,467	2,667	926
8	4,895	3,857	2,967	1,058
9	5,390	4,247	3,267	1,190
10	5,885	4,637	3,567	1,322
Each Additional Member	\$495	\$390	\$300	\$132

NOTE: Food stamp households in which all members are eligible for Reach Up, SSI/AABD, Postsecondary Education Program (PSE), or families with children who received a Vermont Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in the past 12 months, are categorically eligible and do not have to pass the gross income, net income, or resource tests to be determined eligible for food stamps. All other nonfinancial eligibility criteria, such as residency, apply.

10/1/08

Bulletin No. 08-30

P-2590 D1

P-2590 Reference MaterialsD. Food Stamp Allotment Tables1. Current Tables

Monthly allotments for households of up to 10 members are contained in the following tables. Locate the net income (not rounded) on the table for the correct household size. Categorically eligible households of one or two members are eligible for benefits of at least \$14, even if the tables do not show a benefit amount at their net income levels.

NOTE: Benefits can be figured manually for these households as follows:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{thrifty food plan of household size} \\ - \text{net income} \times 30\% \text{ (rounded up)} \\ = \text{allotment} \end{array}$$

2. Formula for Households of More Than 10 People

To determine the issuance to households of 11 or more members use the following method, illustrated here for a household of 11 with a net monthly income of \$1,295.16:

- a. Multiply the household's net monthly income by 30%:

$$\begin{array}{r} \$1,295.16 \\ \times \quad 30\% \\ \hline \$ 388.55 \\ \$ 389.00 \text{ Round up to the whole dollar.} \end{array}$$

- b. For each member in excess of 10 people, add \$132 to the maximum allotment (thrifty food plan) for 10 people:

$$1 \text{ person} \times \$132 = \$132 + \$1,322 = \$1,454$$

This is the maximum allotment for the larger household (11 people).

- c. Subtract the rounded 30% net income figure (a.) from the new maximum allotment (b.) to get correct allotment.
- | |
|-------------------------|
| \$ 1,454 max. allotment |
| - 389 net income |
| \$ 1,065 allotment |

This is the maximum allotment for the larger household (11 people).

3. Percentage Reduction

When demand for benefits exceeds the supply of funds, almost all households will have their allotments reduced by a certain percentage in order to stretch available benefit dollars. Currently no percentage reduction has been ordered.

10/1/08

Bulletin No. 08-30

P-2590 D2

P-2590 Reference Materials

D. Food Stamp Allotment Tables (Click here to see the Table)