

DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER NO. FOOD ASSISTANCE AND ENERGY PROGRAMS 1-2006, Utility Allowance Mass Change (February 2, 2006)

(Food Stamps)

TO: County Directors of Social Services

ATTENTION: Food Stamp Supervisors

SUBJECT: Utility Allowance Mass Change

DATE: February 2, 2006

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Due to the significant increase in ongoing energy costs across the state, North Carolina will increase the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA), Basic Utility Allowance (BUA), and the Telephone Utility Allowance (TUA) effective March 1, 2006. The purpose of this letter is to outline the procedures for implementing the Utility Allowance Mass Change.

FSIS will automatically update SUA, BUA, and TUA amounts on the night of February 28, 2006. March 2006 Food stamp benefits will reflect these changes. All food stamp recipients affected by this change will receive a notice concerning the change in late February. A copy of the notice is attached.

II. POLICY PROCEDURES

- A.** FSIS recalculates each household's existing budget by including the new Standard Utility Allowance (SUA), Basic Utility Allowance (BUA), or Telephone Utility Allowance (TUA). Households affected by this change may receive an increase in their food stamp allotment.
- B.** SNAP cases will not be included in the Mass Change.
- C.** FSIS will generate a DSS-8590 with an updated client record number for each updated case. The message on the DSS-8590 will read "Utility Allowance Mass Change for March 2006." These cases will be listed on a report in NCXPTR. The report is titled "Utility Allowance Mass Change 2006."
- D.** File the DSS-8590. No further action is necessary.
- E.** The food stamp unit is entitled to a fair hearing only if benefits were improperly computed.

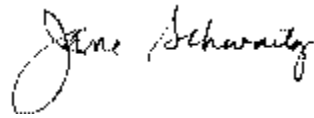
III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

The new SUA, BUA, and TUA amounts are listed in the chart below. FSIS will implement these changes effective March 1, 2006. This change is effective with each application, change in situation, or recertification taken or processed on or after March 1, 2006.

New SUA, BUA, and TUA Amounts			
Food Stamp Unit Size	SUA	BUA	TUA
1	\$266	\$164	\$22
2	\$292	\$180	\$22
3 to 4	\$321	\$198	\$22
5 or more	\$350	\$216	\$22

If you have any questions, please contact your Food Assistance and Energy Programs Representative.

Sincerely,



Jane Schwartz, Chief

Economic Services Section

JS/dl

Attachment

[ES FS AL-1-2006a](#)