

# CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL

**DATE:** October 03, 2023  
**MANUAL:** Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Certification Manual  
**TO:** County Directors of Social Services  
**CHANGE NO:** 04-2023  
**SUBJECT:** 2023-2024 Fiscal Year (FY) Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA), Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) Policy Updates and Simplified Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)  
**EFFECTIVE:** Immediately

## I. BACKGROUND

The purpose of this change notice for manual is to update the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) benefit amounts. Changes were made to increase the regular FNS maximum allotment amounts, gross, net income limits, maximum allowable resource limits homeless shelter standard allowance and lottery/gambling winnings. The Standard Utility Allowance (SUA), Basic Utility Allowance (BUA), Telephone Utility Allowance (TUA), standard deduction, and excess shelter deduction amounts also changed.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has determined that North Carolina Combined Application Project (NCCAP) (known as the **Simplified Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)**) benefit levels must be modified. To maintain cost neutrality under the terms and conditions of this demonstration project, the SNAP shelter expense decreased from \$200 to \$150, resulting in an increase in benefits for SNAP households. The benefit amount for the low shelter increased from \$156 to \$166 and the high shelter expense benefit amount increased from \$196 to \$206.

All adjustments were processed by NC FAST and are effective October 1, 2023.

## II. SPECIFIC CHANGES


<b>FNS 360 Determining Benefit Levels</b>	
FNS 360.01, A	Section has been updated to reflect the new SUA, BUA, and TUA amounts.
FNS 360.01, B	Section has been updated to reflect the new Standard Deduction amounts
FNS 360.01, F	Section has been updated to reflect the new Excess Shelter Deduction
FNS 360.01, G	Section has been updated to reflect the new Homeless Shelter Allowance
FNS 360.02, A	Section has been updated to reflect the new Maximum Monthly Income
FNS 360.02, B	Section has been updated to reflect the new Maximum Allotment

FNS 360.03	Section has been updated to reflect the new Income Standards for separate Food and Nutrition Services units
<b>FNS 600 Simplified Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)</b>	
FNS 600.02 B:1 & 2	Sections have been updated to reflect the new allotment amounts.

### III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

These changes are effective with all applications, changes, and recertifications on and after October 1, 2023. If you have any questions, please submit them to the Continuous Quality Improvement Team (CQI) [dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,



**Madhu Vulimiri, MPP**  
Deputy Director  
Division of Child and Family Well-Being

MV/vb