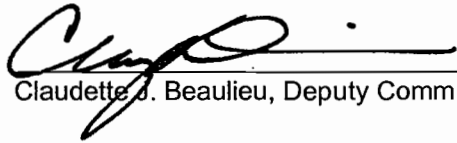




**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
*DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES*  
**UNIFORM POLICY MANUAL**

  
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Claudette J. Beaulieu, Deputy Commissioner

October 1, 2009  
Effective Date

POLICY TRANSMITTAL NO.: UP-09-15

SUBJECT: Annual Changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Standards

This transmits revised UPM Procedures pages pursuant to recent changes to SNAP made by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Changes to SNAP that will be in effect as of October 1, 2009 are:

1. The standard deduction has decreased to \$141 for households of one, two or three people.
2. The standard deduction has increased to \$153 for households of four people, \$179 for households of five people and \$205 for households with six or more people.
3. The maximum shelter hardship deduction has increased to \$459.00.
4. The Standard Utility Allowance will remain \$720.00.
5. The Thrifty Food Plan standards and minimum benefit amounts that were increased in accordance with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 earlier this year remain in effect. *No other increases will take place this October.*
6. The Applied (Net) Income limits have increased. This is largely academic as most households qualify under the new Expanded Categorical Eligibility rules, irrespective of this limit. The increase in the Applied Income limits, however, affects the income limit used for federal Simplified Reporting requirements (130% of SNAP Applied Income Limit) and the income limit used to determine if elderly and disabled household members qualify as separate households when they purchase and prepare food with others (165% of the SNAP Applied Income Limit).

Please note that the gross income limits for SNAP (185% of the Federal Poverty Level) that became effective July 1, 2009 will not be revised until next year when the Federal Poverty Levels are revised.

The EMS parameters for the income limits, standard deduction amounts and maximum hardship were revised in EMS on August 18, 2009. All new applications and changes processed since that date apply the new standards for the October 1, 2009 issuance. A mass modification will be done September 12, 2009 to apply all of the new standards to all active recipients for the October 1, 2009 benefit.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR UPDATING THE UPM:

Remove and Recycle

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P-5030.20  
P-5035.18  
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Insert

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P-5520.36

DISPOSITION: This Policy Transmittal may be recycled once the UPM has been updated.

DISTRIBUTION: UPM list

RESPONSIBLE TEAM: Adult Services Unit - phone # (860) 424-5250

MP

Date Issued: *September 2, 2009*

RC# n/a

**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
UNIFORM POLICY MANUAL**

Date:10-1-09

Transmittal: UP-09-15

P-2020.10

**Section:**  
Assistance Unit Composition

**Type:**  
PROCEDURES

**Chapter:**  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Procedures

**Program:**  
SNAP

**Subject:**  
Determining Separate Units

- P-2020.10
1. Grant assistance as a separate unit to an individual who has the separate assistance unit option according to policy when the individual states he or she buys and prepares meals separately from any other individuals who live with him or her.
  2. To determine separate status of an individual age 60 or over who does not buy and prepare food separately from other individuals who live with them:
    - accept SSI or OASDI disability findings;
    - judge from observation and discussion the permanent inability of the individual to buy and prepare food.
  3. When an individual meets the requirements for separate status in #2, treat the individual's spouse as follows:
    - include the spouse in the separate unit;
    - disregard the spouse's ability to buy and prepare meals;
    - apply the spouse's income only in a determination of the eligibility of the separate unit, not in the 165% test.
  4. The following table reflects the gross monthly income limits based on 165% of the SNAP Applied Income Limit for determining separate household status for elderly people who do not buy and prepare food separately from those they with whom they live because they are incapable of doing so due to disability:

The following table reflects the gross monthly income limits based on 165% of the SNAP Applied Income Limit:

Household Size	165% SNAP Applied Income Limit
1	\$1,490
2	\$2,004
3	\$2,518
4	\$3,032
5	\$3,547
6	\$4,061
7	\$4,575
8	\$5,089
Each additional member	\$515

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**Date:** 10-1-09

**Transmittal:** UP-09-15

**P-5030.20**

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**Section:**  
Treatment of Income

**Type:**  
PROCEDURES

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**Chapter:**  
Income Disregards

**Program:** SNAP

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**Subject:**  
Disregarding Income in SNAP

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| P-5030.20 Disregard the following amount from total earned and unearned income of SNAP assistance units:

Number of Assistance Unit Members	Amount of Disregard
1	\$141
2	\$141
3	\$141
4	\$153
5	\$179
6 or more	\$205

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**Date:** 10-1-09

**Transmittal:** UP-09-15

**P-5035.18**

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**Section:**

**Treatment of Income**

**Type:**

**PROCEDURES**

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**Chapter:**

**Income Deductions**

**Program:**

**SNAP**

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**Subject:**

**Utility Allowances**

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P-5035.18 The standard utility allowance is \$720.00.

The SUA will be updated annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index of energy costs.

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**Date:** 10-1-09

**Transmittal:** UP-09-15

**P-5035.19**

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**Section:**

**Treatment of Income**

**Type:**

**PROCEDURES**

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**Chapter:**

**Income Deductions**

**Program:**

**SNAP**

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**Subject:**

**Maximum Shelter Hardship**

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P-5035.19 The maximum shelter hardship is \$459.

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**Date:** 10-1-09

**Transmittal:** UP-09-15

**P-5520.35**

**Section:**  
Income Eligibility

**Type:**  
PROCEDURES

**Chapter:**  
Income Eligibility Tests

**Program:**  
SNAP

**Subject:**  
Determining Eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

P-5520.35 Determine the assistance unit's income eligibility in the following manner:

1. Determine if the unit either:
  - includes elderly or disabled members; or
  - is categorically eligible.
2. When the unit is categorically eligible, do not subject the unit to any income tests.
3. When the unit includes at least one elderly or disabled member, do not subject the unit to the gross income eligibility test and skip to step 7 in this process.
4. If the unit is neither categorically eligible nor contains any members who are elderly or disabled:
  - a. calculate the unit's total gross monthly income;
  - b. determine the number of persons in the needs group;
  - c. compare the unit's total gross income to the amount equaling 130% of the SNAP Applied Income Limit for the number of persons in the needs group.
5. Use the following table when determining the unit's gross income eligibility (130% of the SNAP Applied Income Limit):

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>130% of SNAP Applied Income Limit</u>
1	\$1,174
2	1,579
3	1,984
4	2,389
5	2,794
6	3,200
7	3,605
8	4,010
Each Additional Member	+406

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**Date:** 10-1-09

**Transmittal:** UP-09-15

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**Section:**  
Income Eligibility

**Type:**  
PROCEDURES

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**Chapter:**  
Income Eligibility Tests

**Program:**  
SNAP

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**Subject:**  
Determining Eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

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P-5520.35 (continued)

6. If the unit's group income is greater than 130% of the SNAP Applied Income Limit, determine the unit to be ineligible.
7. If the unit's gross income is equal to or less than 130% of the SNAP Applied Income Limit, continue with these steps.
8. Calculate the assistance unit's total applied income.
9. Compare the unit's applied income to the appropriate SNAP Applied Income Limit for the size of the needs group; using the following chart:

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>FSAIL</u>
1	\$ 903
2	1,215
3	1,526
4	1,838
5	2,150
6	2,461
7	2,773
8	3,085
Each Additional Member	+312

10. If the unit's income exceeds the level used, determine the unit to be ineligible.
11. If the unit's income is equal to or less than the SNAP Applied Income Limit used, determine the unit to be eligible and calculate benefits.



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**Date:** 10-1-09

**Transmittal:** UP-09-15

**P-5520.36**

**Section:**

**Income Eligibility**

**Type:**

**PROCEDURES**

**Chapter:**

**Income Eligibility Tests**

**Program:**

**SNAP**

**Subject:**

**Gross Income Limits for SNAP Expanded Categorical Eligibility**

P-5520.36 Use the following table when determining the unit's gross income eligibility (185% of the Federal Poverty Level)

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>185% of Federal Poverty Level</u>
1	\$1,671
2	2,248
3	2,823
4	3,400
5	3,978
6	4,553
7	5,130
8	5,707
Each Additional Member	+577