

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO CHANGE FOOD STAMPS  
OCTOBER'06/UPSTATE**

**Case Number:**

**Loc. Off./Unit/Worker:**

**General Telephone No. for  
Questions or Help:**

Dear Food Stamp Recipient:

There will be changes to some items used to figure the amount of food stamps a household gets. These changes are as a result of changes in Federal law. The standard of Maximum Food Stamp Benefits (known as the Thrifty Food Plan or "TFP") has increased. These changes **may increase** the amount of food stamps you get. The changes will take place beginning with your October 2006 Food Stamp benefits.

**Look at Chart # 1 below.**

The dollar amount shown under your household size is the amount of the increase you may get in your monthly food stamps based on the Maximum Food Stamp Benefit change only. For example, if you are a typical food stamp household of two, currently receiving \$28 a month in food stamp benefits, beginning in October, you would get \$34 a month in food stamps (\$28.00 + \$6.00 = \$34.00).

<b>CHART # 1</b>										
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Typical Amount of Food Stamp Increase	\$3	\$6	\$9	\$12	\$14	\$16	\$18	\$20	\$23	\$26

Note: If you are currently receiving \$10.00 a month in food stamp benefits, your food stamps may not change.

The Standard Deduction of \$134 has not changed for households with 1-3 persons but has increased to \$139 for households of four persons, to \$162 for households of five persons and to \$186 for households of six or more persons. The Food Stamp Maximum Excess Shelter Deduction is increasing to \$417.

The Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) has not changed. Households that pay for utility expenses must have the full SUA applied (they cannot choose to have actual expenses applied). Households that share living arrangements with another household, or include individuals ineligible for food stamps, or live in public / subsidized housing with a central utility meter and pay only for excess charges may qualify to have the full SUA applied.

The Regulations which allow us to do this are 18 NYCRR 387.10, 387.12 and 387.15.

**Reporting Rules:**

**Most Food Stamp households with income only have to report changes every six months, with one exception.** You will either be asked to re-certify at this six-month checkpoint, or will be sent a mail report form for you to report changes. **The one exception for households subject to six-month reporting is if your household's total gross monthly income is over 130% of the poverty level.** Special reporting rules for Non-Six-Month Reporters, and for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD's) are explained below (please see the list following Chart #2 to see if these rules apply to you).

**Look at Chart # 2 below:**

The dollar amount shown under your household size shows the 130% income limit for your household, beginning October 1, 2006. **If your household's total gross monthly income is greater than this amount, you must report this monthly amount to your social services district by phone, in writing, or in person within 10 days after the end of the calendar month.** Your gross income is the amount of income before taxes and other deductions are taken out, not the amount you receive when you receive your check. Your total gross monthly income includes all income any member of your household receives during the calendar month.

<b>CHART # 2</b>										
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Report Household Gross Income over 130% Income Limit	\$1062	\$1430	\$1799	\$2167	\$2535	\$2904	\$3272	\$3640	\$4009	\$4378

**Reporting Rules for Non-Six-Month Reporters, Households where all adults are elderly/disabled without earnings, and for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD'S):** There are a few households who still have to report changes affecting their eligibility and food stamp benefits as the change occurs. You must report changes within ten days after the change occurs, if your household: