

**GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**  
**Center for Employment & Economic Supports**

January 9, 2009

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**TO:** Commissioners; TA Directors; FS Directors; WMS Coordinators; Staff Development Coordinators

**FROM:** Russell Sykes, Deputy Commissioner, Center for Employment & Economic Supports

**SUBJECT:** NYSNIP Standard Benefit Amount Adjustments

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 10, 2009

**CONTACT PERSON:** Food Stamp Bureau at 1-800-343-8859, ext. 3-1469; Upstate WMS at 1-800-343-8859, ext. 3-7991; NYC WMS at 212-961-8185

New York State Nutrition Improvement Project (NYSNIP) food stamp benefit levels will be adjusted as part of the MRB/A to adjust the Food Stamp Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) schedules. This adjustment to the NYSNIP benefit levels incorporates both the increase to the Heating/Air Conditioning SUA and the annual adjustment to NYSNIP FS benefit amounts that occurs because of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). Combining these adjustments avoided the necessity for decreasing benefits to these households effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, in response to the SSI COLA, only to increase the monthly benefit again, effective February 1<sup>st</sup> in response to the SUA increase. Information regarding the WMS mass rebudgeting/reauthorization of NYSNIP benefit levels was provided in **ABEL Transmittal 08-4**.

Additionally, the new NYSNIP FS benefit amounts (see attached table of NYSNIP Benefit Levels effective 02/01/09) will be effective for any ABEL **NYSNIP FS Shelter Type** budgets calculated as of 01/10/09 with a **FROM Date** of 02/01/09 or later.

**\$229 High Shelter Cost Threshold**

**New** NYSNIP households having cases opened, and existing NYSNIP households recertified, effective 02/01/09 or later and having shelter costs **greater than \$229** will be considered to be "High Shelter" (Shelter Type 94 or 96) cases by the standard of the project. Conversely, effective 02/01/09, **new** and recertifying NYSNIP households having shelter costs of **\$229 or less** will be considered to be "Low Shelter" (Shelter Type 95 or 97) cases by the standard of the project. This change to the shelter threshold was migrated on 12/20/08 for budgets having a **FROM Date** of 02/01/09 or later.

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**NYSNIP BENEFITS MATRIX BY SHELTER TYPES**

*02/01/09*

HOUSEHOLD		MONTHLY FOOD STAMP BENEFIT AMOUNT		
		New York City	Nassau/Suffolk	Upstate
Shelter Type 94 (High Shelter/SUA)	SSI Only	\$176	\$176	\$176
	Other Income	\$176	\$176	\$176
Shelter Type 95 (Low Shelter/SUA)	SSI Only	\$176	\$176	\$161
	Other Income	\$176	\$168	\$152
Shelter Type 96 (High Shelter/ SUA/\$1 HEAP)	SSI Only	\$176	\$176	\$176
	Other Income	\$176	\$176	\$176
Shelter Type 97 (Low Shelter/ SUA/\$1 HEAP)	SSI Only	\$176	\$176	\$161
	Other Income	\$176	\$168	\$152
Shelter Type 98 (No Shelter or SUA Data)	SSI Only	\$36	\$36	\$36
	Other Income	\$32	\$32	\$32