



**DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES
POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT UNIT**

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE A-09-2021

TO: DSS & DMMA Staff

DATE: September 16, 2021

PROGRAMS: Food Supplement Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), General Assistance (GA), and Child Care

SUBJECT: **October 2021 Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs)**

BACKGROUND

Each October, indexed adjustments are made to the Federal Poverty Levels (FPLs) affecting the Food Supplement, TANF, and Child Care programs.

This notice contains updated benefit, deduction, and income limit amounts for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022, which are effective from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.

DISCUSSION

The following attachments contain the FFY 2022 COLA changes which are effective beginning October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.

Attachment A: Food Supplement Program

Changes were made to the Food Benefit maximum allotments, deductions, resource limits, and income eligibility standards.

The FFY 2022 Food Benefit maximum allotments were increased as a result of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) re-evaluation of the Thrifty Food Plan, which is used to calculate Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. The USDA used the latest available data on current food prices, what Americans typically eat, dietary guidelines, and nutrition when establishing the new Food Benefit amounts.

The Basis of EBT Issuance Allotment tables are available in the Outlook Public Folders under DHSS/DSS/Policy/Food Supplement Program/2022 COLA Documents.

Attachment B: Cash Assistance Programs

Changes were made to the TANF income eligibility standards.

Attachment C: Child Care Program

Changes were made to the Child Care income eligibility standards and sliding fee scale.

Attachment D: Simplified Reporting Rules for Food Benefits

The income table was revised based on changes in the income limits, and the new lottery and gambling reporting requirement was added.

Attachment E: Income Reporting for Child Care

The income table was revised based on changes in the income limits.

ACTION REQUIRED

Food Benefit Cases

ASSIST Worker Web (AWW) will update the Food Benefit COLA changes for October 2021 benefits when mass change is run in September 2021.

AWW will determine eligibility for benefits for September based on FFY 2021 income eligibility standards. AWW will determine eligibility for October's benefits based on FFY 2022 income eligibility standards.

TANF Cases

After mass change is run in September 2021, the AWW system will be updated to reflect the October 2021 TANF standard of need limits.

AWW will determine eligibility for benefits for September based on FFY 2021 income eligibility standards. AWW will determine eligibility for October's benefits based on FFY 2022 income eligibility standards.

Child Care Cases

AWW will be updated to reflect the new income limits for families receiving Purchase of Care. Beginning October 1, 2021, AWW will use the new FFY 2022 income limits to determine eligibility and assign copayments for all new and redetermined cases.

If a family with an existing authorization would receive a decrease in their copayment amount based on the new income limits, the authorization for October and any subsequent months will be updated to reflect the decreased copayment. If a family with an existing authorization would receive an increase in their copayment amount based on the new income limits, the copayment may only increase if the authorization has not met the maximum copayment assignment.

Signed 9/16/2021

THOMAS HALL
DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A: Food Supplement Program
- Attachment B: Cash Assistance Programs
- Attachment C: Child Care Program
- Attachment D: Simplified Reporting Rules for Food Benefits
- Attachment E: Reporting Rules for Child Care

Attachment A

**FOOD SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM
 FFY 2022
 OCTOBER 1, 2021 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

MAXIMUM FOOD BENEFIT ALLOTMENTS			
<i>Household Size</i>	<i>Old Amount 10/2020</i>	<i>Temporary 15% Increase Maximum Allotment 1/1/2021 – 9/30/2021</i>	<i>New Amount 10/2021</i>
1	\$204	\$234	\$250
2	\$374	\$430	\$459
3	\$535	\$616	\$658
4	\$680	\$782	\$835
5	\$807	\$929	\$992
6	\$969	\$1,114	\$1,190
7	\$1,071	\$1,232	\$1,316
8	\$1,224	\$1,408	\$1,504
Each additional member	\$153	\$176	\$188

MINIMUM FOOD BENEFIT ALLOTMENTS			
<i>Household Size</i>	<i>Old Amount 10/2020</i>	<i>Temporary 15% Increase Maximum Allotment 1/1/2021 – 9/30/2021</i>	<i>New Amount 10/2021</i>
1-2	\$16	\$19	\$20

STANDARD DEDUCTIONS		
<i>Household Size</i>	<i>Old Amount 10/2020</i>	<i>New Amount 10/2021</i>
1-3	\$167	\$177
4	\$181	\$184
5	\$212	\$215
6+	\$243	\$246

Attachment A

**FOOD SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM
 FFY 2022
 OCTOBER 1, 2021 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

MAXIMUM EXCESS SHELTER DEDUCTION	
<i>Old Amount 10/2020</i>	<i>New Amount 10/2021</i>
\$586	\$597

HOMELESS SHELTER DEDUCTION	
<i>Old Amount 10/2020</i>	<i>New Amount 10/2021</i>
\$156.74	\$159.73

SELF-EMPLOYMENT STANDARD DEDUCTION
44%

STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCES		
<i>Type of Utility</i>	<i>Old Amount 10/2020</i>	<i>New Amount 10/2021</i>
Heating/Cooling	\$407	\$425
Limited (Non-Heating/Cooling)	\$282	\$294
One Utility	\$70	\$75
Telephone	\$36	\$36

MAXIMUM RESOURCE LIMITS		
<i>Household Type</i>	<i>Old Amount 10/2020</i>	<i>New Amount 10/2021</i>
Households with at least one member who is age 60 or older or is disabled	\$3,500	\$3,750
All other households	\$2,250	\$2,500

Attachment A

**FOOD SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM
 FFY 2022
 OCTOBER 1, 2021 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

MAXIMUM LIMIT FOR LOTTERY AND GAMBLING WINNINGS	
<i>Old Amount 10/2020</i>	<i>New Amount 10/2021</i>
\$3,500	\$3,750

INCOME ELIGIBILITY LIMITS					
<i>Household Size</i>	<i>Maximum Gross Monthly Income 200% FPL Categorically Eligible</i>	<i>Elderly / Disabled Separate Household 165% FPL</i>	<i>Maximum Gross Monthly Income 130% FPL Simplified Reporting</i>	<i>Maximum Net Monthly Income 100% FPL</i>	<i>Maximum Allotment</i>
1	\$2,148	\$1,771	\$1,396	\$1,074	\$250
2	\$2,904	\$2,396	\$1,888	\$1,452	\$459
3	\$3,660	\$3,020	\$2,379	\$1,830	\$658
4	\$4,418	\$3,644	\$2,871	\$2,209	\$835
5	\$5,174	\$4,268	\$3,363	\$2,587	\$992
6	\$5,930	\$4,893	\$3,855	\$2,965	\$1,190
7	\$6,688	\$5,517	\$4,347	\$3,344	\$1,316
8	\$7,444	\$6,141	\$4,839	\$3,722	\$1,504
Each additional member	\$758	\$625	\$492	\$379	\$188

Attachment B

**CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
 FFY 2022
 OCTOBER 1, 2021 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

TANF PROGRAM COST OF LIVING STANDARD ADJUSTMENTS			
<i>Number of People in the Budget Group</i>	<i>185% of the Standard of Need</i>	<i>Standard of Need 75% FPL</i>	<i>Payment Standard</i>
1	\$1,491	\$806	\$201
2	\$2,015	\$1,089	\$270
3	\$2,540	\$1,373	\$338
4	\$3,065	\$1,657	\$407
5	\$3,589	\$1,940	\$475
6	\$4,114	\$2,224	\$544
7	\$4,640	\$2,508	\$612
8	\$5,165	\$2,792	\$681
9	\$5,691	\$3,076	\$750
10	\$6,216	\$3,360	\$819
11	\$6,741	\$3,644	\$888
12	\$7,269	\$3,929	\$957
13	\$7,794	\$4,213	\$1,026
14	\$8,319	\$4,497	\$1,095
15	\$8,845	\$4,781	\$1,164
16	\$9,372	\$5,066	\$1,233
17	\$9,898	\$5,350	\$1,302
18	\$10,423	\$5,634	\$1,371

Attachment B

**CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
 FFY 2022
 OCTOBER 1, 2021 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM STANDARDS OF NEED AND PAYMENT STANDARDS		
<i>Number of People in the Budget Group</i>	<i>Standard of Need</i>	<i>Payment Standard</i>
1	\$79	\$79
2	\$107	\$107
3	\$144	\$144
4	\$169	\$169
5	\$209	\$209
6	\$239	\$239
7	\$266	\$266

TANF MAXIMUM DEPENDENT CARE DEDUCTIONS	
<i>Age of Child</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Under 2 years old	\$ 200
2 years old and older	\$ 175

RESOURCE LIMITS	
<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>
General Assistance	\$1,000
TANF	\$10,000

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION BONUS
\$350

Attachment C

**CHILD CARE PROGRAM
 FFY 2022
 OCTOBER 1, 2021 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

INCOME ELIGIBILITY LIMITS & SLIDING FEE SCALE							
<i>MONTHLY COPAYMENTS ARE BASED ON COUNTABLE FAMILY INCOME</i>							
<i>Family Size</i>	<i>Maximum Gross Monthly Income at Application 185% FPL</i>	<i>Maximum Gross Monthly Income at Redetermination 200% FPL</i>	<i>Maximum Gross Monthly Income during Authorization 85% SMI</i>	<i>Excessive Financial Burden for Copayments ≤ 40% FPL</i>	<i>Waived Copayments ≤ 70% FPL</i>	<i>4% of Gross Income Applied to Copayments >70% - 105% FPL</i>	<i>9% of Gross Income Applied to Copayments >105% - 200% FPL</i>
1	\$1,987	\$2,148	\$3,827	\$430	\$752	\$753 - \$1,128	\$1,129 - \$2,148
2	\$2,686	\$2,904	\$5,005	\$581	\$1,016	\$1,017 - \$1,525	\$1,526 - \$2,904
3	\$3,386	\$3,660	\$6,182	\$732	\$1,281	\$1,282 - \$1,922	\$1,923 - \$3,660
4	\$4,087	\$4,418	\$7,360	\$884	\$1,546	\$1,547 - \$2,319	\$2,320 - \$4,418
5	\$4,786	\$5,174	\$8,537	\$1,035	\$1,811	\$1,812 - \$2,716	\$2,717 - \$5,174
6	\$5,485	\$5,930	\$9,715	\$1,186	\$2,076	\$2,077 - \$3,113	\$3,114 - \$5,930
7	\$6,186	\$6,688	\$9,935	\$1,338	\$2,341	\$2,342 - \$3,511	\$3,512 - \$6,688
8	\$6,886	\$7,444	\$10,156	\$1,489	\$2,605	\$2,606 - \$3,908	\$3,909 - \$7,444
9	\$7,587	\$8,202	\$10,377	\$1,640	\$2,871	\$2,872 - \$4,306	\$4,307 - \$8,202
10	\$8,288	\$8,960	\$10,598	\$1,792	\$3,136	\$3,137 - \$4,704	\$4,705 - \$8,960
11	\$8,989	\$9,718	\$10,819	\$1,944	\$3,401	\$3,402 - \$5,102	\$5,103 - \$9,718
12	\$9,690	\$10,476	\$11,039	\$2,095	\$3,667	\$3,668 - \$5,500	\$5,501 - \$10,476
13	\$10,391	\$11,234	\$11,260	\$2,247	\$3,932	\$3,933 - \$5,898	\$5,899 - \$11,234
14	\$11,093	\$11,992	\$11,481	\$2,398	\$4,197	\$4,198 - \$6,296	\$6,297 - \$11,992
15	\$11,794	\$12,750	\$11,702	\$2,550	\$4,463	\$4,464 - \$6,694	\$6,695 - \$12,750
16	\$12,495	\$13,508	\$11,923	\$2,702	\$4,728	\$4,729 - \$7,092	\$7,093 - \$13,508
17	\$13,196	\$14,266	\$12,143	\$2,853	\$4,993	\$4,994 - \$7,490	\$7,491 - \$14,266
18	\$13,897	\$15,024	\$12,364	\$3,005	\$5,258	\$5,259 - \$7,888	\$7,889 - \$15,024

Attachment D

SIMPLIFIED REPORTING RULES FOR FOOD BENEFITS OCTOBER 1, 2021 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

If you receive Food Benefits:

- 1. You must report when your household's total monthly income is more than the amount listed in the table below for your household size. You must report your total monthly income to the Division of Social Services within 10 days after the end of the month that your income increased. You must show your paycheck stubs to the Division of Social Services.**

<i>Number of People in Your Food Benefit Case</i>	<i>Food Benefit Household Monthly Income</i>
1	\$1,396
2	\$1,888
3	\$2,379
4	\$2,871
5	\$3,363
6	\$3,855
7	\$4,347
8	\$4,839
For each additional person, add:	\$492

Monthly Gross Earned Income + Monthly Unearned Income = Total Monthly Income

To calculate your household's total monthly income, add the gross amount of all earned income (the amount of income from employment before deductions are taken out) to the amount of all unearned income (such as Social Security benefits, child support, or other cash assistance) that is received by everyone in your household during the month.

- 2. You must report when anyone in your household receives lottery or gambling winnings of \$3,750 or more. You must report lottery or gambling winnings to the Division of Social Services (DSS) within 10 days after receiving the winnings even if you spend or give away the winnings.**
- 3. If you are an adult living in a household without any minor children and you are getting Food Benefits because you are working 80 hours or more per month, you must report when you start working less than 80 hours per month. You must report your new work hours to the Division of Social Services within 10 days after the end of the month that your hours decreased.**

To report a change:

- **Call the Change Report Center at 1-866-843-7212; or**
- **Contact your local Division of Social Services office; or**
- **Login to your Delaware ASSIST account at assist.dhss.delaware.gov.**

You are not required to report other changes in your Food Benefit household's circumstances. This reporting requirement is for Food Benefits only. If you report a change, DSS will take action on it and will notify you if the change results in either an increase or decrease in your benefits.

You must immediately report any changes in your household's circumstances for Cash Assistance and Medical Assistance.

Attachment E

**REPORTING RULES FOR CHILD CARE
 OCTOBER 1, 2021 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

If you are receiving Child Care Assistance, you are required to report a change in income when your family’s total monthly income increases to greater than 85% of the State Median Income (SMI) shown below. You must report this increase in income to the Division of Social Services within 10 days of the change.

85% STATE MEDIAN INCOME (SMI) LIMITS

<i>Household Size</i>	<i>Yearly State Median Income</i>	<i>Monthly Income 85% SMI</i>	<i>Weekly Income 85% SMI</i>	<i>Bi-weekly Income 85% SMI</i>	<i>Semi-Monthly Income 85% SMI</i>
1	\$54,028	\$3,827	\$884	\$1,772	\$1,914
2	\$70,652	\$5,005	\$1,156	\$2,317	\$2,503
3	\$87,276	\$6,182	\$1,428	\$2,862	\$3,091
4	\$103,900	\$7,360	\$1,700	\$3,407	\$3,680
5	\$120,524	\$8,537	\$1,972	\$3,952	\$4,269
6	\$137,148	\$9,715	\$2,244	\$4,498	\$4,858
7	\$140,256	\$9,935	\$2,294	\$4,600	\$4,968
8	\$143,382	\$10,156	\$2,345	\$4,702	\$5,078
9	\$146,499	\$10,377	\$2,397	\$4,804	\$5,189
10	\$149,616	\$10,598	\$2,448	\$4,906	\$5,299
11	\$152,733	\$10,819	\$2,499	\$5,009	\$5,410
12	\$155,850	\$11,039	\$2,549	\$5,111	\$5,520
13	\$158,967	\$11,260	\$2,600	\$5,213	\$5,630
14	\$162,084	\$11,481	\$2,652	\$5,315	\$5,741
15	\$165,201	\$11,702	\$2,703	\$5,418	\$5,851
16	\$168,318	\$11,923	\$2,754	\$5,520	\$5,962
17	\$171,435	\$12,143	\$2,804	\$5,622	\$6,072
18	\$174,552	\$12,364	\$2,855	\$5,724	\$6,182

Monthly Gross Earned Income + Monthly Unearned Income = Total Monthly Income

To calculate your household’s total monthly income, add the gross amount of all earned income (the amount of income from employment before deductions are taken out) to the amount of all unearned income (such as Social Security benefits, child support, or other cash assistance) that is received by everyone in your household during the month.

You must also report a non-temporary change that affects your need for child care within 10 days of the change.

Examples of non-temporary changes include:

- **Loss of employment;**
- **Completion of an education or training program; or**
- **Permanent change in state residency.**

To report a change:

- **Call the Change Report Center at 1-866-843-7212; or**
- **Contact your local Division of Social Services office; or**
- **Login to your Delaware ASSIST account at assist.dhss.delaware.gov.**