



**State of Florida**  
**Department of Children and Families**

**Ron DeSantis**  
*Governor*

**Taylor N. Hatch**  
*Secretary*

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**DATE:** September 22, 2025      **TRANSMITTAL NO.:** I-25-09-0010

**TO:** Economic Self Sufficiency Operations Managers  
Economic Self Sufficiency Program Offices

**FROM:** Julie Reed, Chief, Program Policy  
**(Signature on File)**

**SUBJECT:** 2026 Food Assistance Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)

**EFFECTIVE:** October 1, 2025

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This memorandum notifies staff about the food assistance Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) beginning October 1, 2025.

**Food Assistance**

Refer to the attached job aid (Attachment 1) showing increases to the food assistance income limits, maximum benefit amounts, minimum benefit amount, maximum shelter deduction, standard deductions, homeless shelter deduction, Standard Utility Allowance (SUA), Basic Utility Allowance (BUA) and telephone expense. The asset limits will remain unchanged. The Department will add the attached posters to the ACCESS web site in lieu of sending a mass change notice. Display the posters in all customer areas to inform recipients of the upcoming changes.

**SSI-Related Medicaid**

**New Approvals:**

FLORIDA will automatically budget the new SUA in determining the community spouse's excess shelter expense when calculating the Minimum Monthly Maintenance Income Allowance (MMMIA).

The increase in SUA may result in changes to the patient responsibility for an eligible spouse who is institutionalized or enrolled in a Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)/Waiver or Program All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), and the amount of income diverted to a community spouse.

**Existing Cases:**

For Institutional Care Program (ICP), Waivers, and PACE use the new SUA when processing a case that includes a community spouse at the next reported change, eligibility renewal or upon request.

Regional Program Offices with policy questions related to this transmittal should submit them through the Policy Technical Assistance Request page.

cc: Assistant Secretary for Economic Self Sufficiency (Bridget Royster)  
Assistant Secretary for Office of Child and Family Well-Being (vacant)  
Assistant Secretary for Office of Community Services (Patricia Medlock)  
Assistant Secretary for Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (vacant)  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Operations (Doane Rohr)  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Programs (Jamie Dattoli)  
Director of Operations (Terri Lynch)  
Regional ESS Directors  
Business Operations (Laura Kirksey)  
Customer Experience (Nichole Solomon)  
Data and Information Technology (Chris Presnell)  
Enterprise Support (Mark Miller)  
ESS Programs and Policy (Tera Bivens)  
FLORIDA Help Desk (Natarsha Peacock)  
Information Technology (Andrea Latham)  
Office of Appeal Hearings (Karina Sarmiento)  
Office of Communications (Morgan Jones)  
Office of the General Counsel (Shawn Belcher)  
Public Benefits Integrity (Sheri Hall)  
Strategic Programs and Innovation (Heather DeFrancisco)  
AHCA (Ann Dalton, Devona Pickle, Paula James, Mia Harden, Jennifer Giddens)  
Florida Healthy Kids (Suzetta Furlong)

| Assistance Group Size                                                      | 165% Need Standards<br>Effective<br>October 1, 2025 | Maximum Benefit<br>Effective<br>October 1, 2025 | Gross and Net Income Limits<br>Effective October 1, 2025 |                                 |                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                                                                            |                                                     |                                                 | Monthly 200% Gross Income Limit                          | Monthly 130% Gross Income Limit | Monthly 100% Net Income Limit |
| 1                                                                          | \$2,152                                             | \$298                                           | \$2,610                                                  | \$1,696                         | \$1,305                       |
| 2                                                                          | \$2,909                                             | \$546                                           | \$3,526                                                  | \$2,292                         | \$1,763                       |
| 3                                                                          | \$3,665                                             | \$785                                           | \$4,442                                                  | \$2,888                         | \$2,221                       |
| 4                                                                          | \$4,421                                             | \$994                                           | \$5,360                                                  | \$3,483                         | \$2,680                       |
| 5                                                                          | \$5,177                                             | \$1,183                                         | \$6,276                                                  | \$4,079                         | \$3,138                       |
| 6                                                                          | \$5,934                                             | \$1,421                                         | \$7,192                                                  | \$4,675                         | \$3,596                       |
| 7                                                                          | \$6,690                                             | \$1,571                                         | \$8,110                                                  | \$5,271                         | \$4,055                       |
| 8                                                                          | \$7,446                                             | \$1,789                                         | \$9,026                                                  | \$5,867                         | \$4,513                       |
| 9                                                                          | \$8,203                                             | \$2,007                                         | \$9,944                                                  | \$6,463                         | \$4,972                       |
| 10                                                                         | \$8,960                                             | \$2,225                                         | \$10,862                                                 | \$7,059                         | \$5,431                       |
| Each Additional Member Add                                                 | +\$757                                              | +\$218                                          | +\$918                                                   | +\$596                          | +\$459                        |
| Food Assistance Deductions                                                 |                                                     |                                                 |                                                          |                                 |                               |
| Standard Utility Allowance                                                 |                                                     | \$430                                           |                                                          | Effective October 1, 2025       |                               |
| Basic Utility Allowance                                                    |                                                     | \$348                                           |                                                          |                                 |                               |
| Telephone Standard                                                         |                                                     | \$ 56                                           |                                                          |                                 |                               |
| Standard Deductions Effective October 1, 2025                              |                                                     | 1-3 Members \$209                               | 4 Members \$223                                          | 5 Members \$261                 | 6+ Members \$299              |
| Homeless Income Deduction Effective October 1, 2025                        |                                                     | \$199                                           |                                                          |                                 |                               |
| Maximum Deduction For Dependent Care<br>Effective October 1, 2008          |                                                     | No Maximum                                      |                                                          |                                 |                               |
| Maximum Shelter Deduction:                                                 |                                                     |                                                 |                                                          |                                 |                               |
| AG'S Without Elderly or Disabled Member<br>Effective October 1, 2025       |                                                     | \$744                                           |                                                          |                                 |                               |
| AG'S With an Elderly or Disabled Member                                    |                                                     | UNCAPPED                                        |                                                          |                                 |                               |
| Minimum Allotment for 1 or 2 Member Household<br>Effective October 1, 2025 |                                                     | \$24                                            |                                                          |                                 |                               |
| Asset Limit: Effective October 1, 2025                                     |                                                     |                                                 |                                                          |                                 |                               |
| AG'S Without Elderly or Disabled Member                                    |                                                     | \$3,000                                         |                                                          |                                 |                               |
| AG'S With an Elderly or Disabled Member*                                   |                                                     | \$4,500                                         |                                                          |                                 |                               |

\*The asset limit for elderly or disabled households also serves as the threshold for substantial lottery or gambling winnings.

# **~NOTICE~**

**Food assistance benefit amounts MAY CHANGE on October 1, 2025 because of federal cost-of-living changes.**

**How do I check to see if my benefits changed?**

You may log into your My ACCESS account to view your benefit information for the month of October.

**Can I file a hearing if I disagree with these changes?**

Yes. You have the right to request a fair hearing if you disagree with this change in your food assistance amount.

# **~AVISO~**

**Los beneficios en el programa de sellos de alimentos cambiarán el 1 de Octubre del 2025 debido a los cambios sobre el costo de vida de la ley federal.**

**Cómo reviso si hay cambios en mis beneficios?**

Usted puede ir a su cuenta en My ACCESS y revisar la información de sus beneficios por el mes de Octubre.

**Puedo pedir una audiencia si no estoy de acuerdo con estos cambios?**

Sí. Usted tiene el derecho de pedir una audiencia si no está de acuerdo con los cambios en su cantidad de sellos de alimentos.

# ~AVI~

**Kantité bénéfis pou manjé a kapab chanjé a pati de Pwémyé Oktob 2025 a kauz de chanjman sou ogmantasyon nan lavi chè a.**

**Kouman mwen kapab wè si kantité bénéfis mwen yo chanjé?**

Ou kapab alé nan AKONT My ACCESS ou a pou wè enfòmasyon sou bénéfis pou mwa Oktob la.

**Eske mwen kapab mandé yon odyans si mwen pa dakò avek chanjman sa yo?**

Wi. Ou gen dwa pou mandé yon odyans si ou pa dakò avek chanjman ki fèt sou kantité bénéfis manjé ou a.