

1038

**FOOD STAMP PROGRAM STANDARDS**

1038.05

**STANDARD DEDUCTION**

REV: 10/2005

Each household is allowed a standard deduction as outlined below:

Household Size	Standard Deduction Amount
1	\$134
2	134
3	134
4	134
5	157
6+	179

The amounts above are provided annually by FNS and equal 8.31 percent of the Federal poverty level but not more than 8.31 percent of the Federal poverty level for a household of six (6).

In any case, the standard deduction for a household shall not be less than one hundred thirty-four dollars (\$134).

1038.07

**EARNED INCOME DEDUCTION**

REV:01/1997

A household with earned income shall be allowed a deduction of twenty percent (20%) of all earned income to compensate for taxes, other mandatory deductions from salary, and work expenses.

Please note that the term "earned income" does not include any portion of the income earned under a work supplementation or support program that is attributable to public assistance. For the definition of earned income, see Section 1008.15.05.

Exception: the deduction described above shall not be allowed with respect to determining an overissuance due to the failure of a household to report earned income in a timely manner.

**1038.10****MAXIMUM DEPENDENT CARE DEDUCTION**

REV:09/1994

For households incurring dependent care costs, the maximum dependent care deduction is \$200 per month for each child under 2 years of age and \$175 per month for each other dependent.

**1038.15****MAXIMUM EXCESS SHELTER DEDUCTION**

REV:10/2005

The maximum excess shelter deduction is four hundred dollars (\$400.00) per household per month for households incurring shelter costs.

**1038.17****HOMELESS HOUSEHOLD SHELTER ESTIMATE**

REV:10/1995

The standard homeless household shelter estimate defined in Section 1008.20.25 is \$143 per household per month.

**1038.20****UTILITY EXPENSES**

REV:10/2005

There are three methods of calculating utility expenses for households:

- \* The standard utility allowance which is used only when the household is billed for heating and/or cooling costs on a regular basis or has received or expects to receive a LIHEEA payment at its current address;
- \* The actual utility expenses, not including heating and/or cooling costs, which the household incurs and pays for separately. These utility amounts are then added to the rent or mortgage payments (including property taxes, insurance and local assessment) to obtain the total shelter expense; and,
- \* The standard telephone allowance of \$22.50, which is used for a household that incurs the expense of a basic service charge for one telephone and is not eligible to use the standard utility allowance.

**1038.20.05****Standard Utility Allowance**

REV:10/2005

The standard utility allowance is three hundred fifty seven dollars (\$357.00) per household per month based on an annualized (twelve-month) average of utility costs. The standard utility allowance includes the cost of heating and/or cooling, cooking fuel, electricity, or gas not used to heat or cool the residence, the basic service fee for one telephone, water, sewerage and garbage and trash collection.

All households that incur heating and/or cooling expenses are required to use the full standard utility allowance. When separate households are residing together and share heating and/or cooling expenses, each family must receive the full standard utility allowance. To qualify for the standard utility allowance, households must be 1) billed on a regular basis for its primary utility for heating and/or cooling or 2) receive or expect to receive energy assistance under LIHEAA at their current address.

Those households with heating/cooling expenses must verify them; those receiving LIHEAA must document such assistance. Heating costs can include oil, gas, electricity, coal, wood, etc., if the household's primary heating utility is one of these sources.

(Refer to Section 1008.20.25.05.)

**1038.20.10****Actual Utility Expenses**

REV:10/2005

A household not qualified for the standard utility allowance may claim any actual utility expenses that it pays separately.

Use of the actual utility expenses is authorized by entering the actual utility amounts in the INRHODES' "Utility Expense Panel".

**1038.25****GROSS AND NET INCOME ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS**

REV:10/2005

The gross or net income eligibility standards for the household size are used to determine the household's eligibility according to the characteristics of the household.

To determine eligibility for households containing a member(s) who is elderly or disabled, or a disabled veteran or surviving disabled spouse/child(ren) of a veteran, the adjusted net monthly food stamp income of the household, computed in accordance with the instructions in Section 1010, is compared to the maximum net monthly income limits for the appropriate household size in Table II, below.

To determine eligibility for all other households:

First, compare the total gross monthly income of the household to the one hundred thirty percent (130%) maximum gross monthly income limit for the appropriate household size in Table I, below;

Second, compare the total net monthly income of the household (after appropriate deductions) to the maximum net monthly income limit for the appropriate household size in Table II, below.

To determine eligibility for the elderly and disabled applying for separate household status, compare the gross monthly income of all the others in the household to the one hundred sixty-five percent (165%) maximum gross monthly income limit for the appropriate household size in Table III, below. Also, the elderly or disabled person/spouse is not to be considered a household member for this purpose. (Includes disabled veterans or surviving disabled spouse/child(ren) of a veteran (see definition in Section 1010.30.05)).

TABLE I - 130% LIMIT - GROSS MONTHLY INCOME LIMIT

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MAXIMUM GROSS MONTHLY INCOME	HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MAXIMUM GROSS MONTHLY INCOME
1. . . . .	\$1,037	9. . . . .	\$3,863
2. . . . .	1,390	10. . . . .	4,217
3. . . . .	1,744	11. . . . .	4,571
4. . . . .	2,097	12. . . . .	4,925
5. . . . .	2,450	13. . . . .	5,279
6. . . . .	2,803	14. . . . .	5,633
7. . . . .	3,156	15. . . . .	5,987
8. . . . .	3,509	16. . . . .	6,341+

+For each additional member over 16, add \$354.00.

TABLE II - 100% INCOME LIMIT - NET MONTHLY INCOME LIMIT

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MAXIMUM NET MONTHLY INCOME	HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MAXIMUM NET MONTHLY INCOME
1. . . . .	\$ 798	9. . . . .	\$2,972
2. . . . .	1,070	10. . . . .	3,244
3. . . . .	1,341	11. . . . .	3,516
4. . . . .	1,613	12. . . . .	3,788
5. . . . .	1,885	13. . . . .	4,060
6. . . . .	2,156	14. . . . .	4,332
7. . . . .	2,428	15. . . . .	4,604
8. . . . .	2,700	16. . . . .	4,876+

+For each additional member over 16, add \$272.00.

TABLE III - 165% INCOME LIMIT

MONTHLY MAXIMUM GROSS HOUSEHOLD ELDERLY/DISABLED		MONTHLY MAXIMUM GROSS HOUSEHOLD ELDERLY/DISABLED	
SIZE	SEPARATE HOUSEHOLD	SIZE	SEPARATE HOUSEHOLD
1. . . . .	\$1,316	9. . . . .	\$4,903
2. . . . .	1,765	10. . . . .	5,352
3. . . . .	2,213	11. . . . .	5,801
4. . . . .	2,661	12. . . . .	6,250
5. . . . .	3,109	13. . . . .	6,699
6. . . . .	3,558	14. . . . .	7,148
7. . . . .	4,006	15. . . . .	7,597
8. . . . .	4,454	16. . . . .	8,046+

+For each additional member over 16, add \$449.00.

Table I, Table II, and Table III are not used for computing the food stamp allotment amount. These tables are used for determining the household's eligibility.

**1038.35 PRORATING ALLOTMENTS FOR THE INITIAL MONTH**

REV:10/2005

The amount of food stamps which a household receives monthly is determined by subtracting thirty percent (30%) of the household's net monthly income from the Maximum Food Stamp Allotment amount for the appropriate household size, or by using the Basis of Coupon Issuance Tables. Normally, the household receives that full monthly allotment throughout its certification period.

However, during the initial month, the household may only be entitled to a partial allotment. Food Stamp benefits are reduced in proportion to the number of days from the date of application until the end of the month.

For a household that has not previously participated in the Food Stamp Program the first month for which benefits are issued is the initial month.

For a household that has participated in the Food Stamp Program, the initial month is the first month for which an allotment is issued following a period during which the household was not certified for participation, provided that the household did not have an application pending. Whether the household receives the full monthly allotment or a prorated amount, its eligibility and allotment are still determined in the usual way by considering all the income and resources available to the household for the month.

Standard Thirty (30) Day Month

Rhode Island has elected to average months with twenty-eight (28), twenty-nine (29), and thirty-one (31) days and consider that each calendar or fiscal month has a standard thirty (30) days.

**1038.35.05                      Instructions for Use of the Proration Table**

REV:11/1984

To determine allotments for the initial month using the Food Stamp Allotment Proration Table, read down the left column to the appropriate full monthly allotment and across to the date of application. For example, if a household applies on August 20 and is eligible to receive a \$35 monthly allotment based on its net monthly income and household size, the allotment for August would be \$12 and the allotment for subsequent months during the certification period would be \$35. The table can be used for months with any number of days. If the household is eligible for a \$241 monthly allotment, it would receive \$24 for the initial month if it applied on February 28 or \$0 if it applied on March 31.

**1038.35.10                      Instructions for Use of Proration Formula**

REV:10/1983

Using the standard 30-day calendar or fiscal month, the initial month benefits can also be prorated by using the following formula, keeping in mind that the date of application for someone applying on the 31st of the month is the 30th:

$$\text{full month's benefits} \times \frac{(31 \text{ minus date of application})}{30} = \text{prorated allotment}$$

The sequence for calculation of the formula is: first, subtract the date of application from 31; second, multiply the result of the subtraction by the full monthly allotment; third, divide the product of the multiplication by 30; and fourth, round down, if necessary.

**1038.35.15 Use of Multiplication Factors**

REV:11/1984

If a household's monthly allotment is more than \$900, the highest number shown in the tables, calculate the prorated amount by multiplying the full monthly allotment by the factor (shown below) appropriate to the application date, and round the product down to the nearest whole dollar if the allotment ends in 1 through 99 cents. If the computation results in an allotment of less than \$10, round down to \$0. The multiplication factors are:

DATE OF APPLICATION	MULTIPLICATION FACTOR	DATE OF APPLICATION	MULTIPLICATION FACTOR
1	1.0000	16	.5000
2	.9667	17	.4667
3	.9334	18	.4334
4	.9000	19	.4000
5	.8667	20	.3667
6	.8334	21	.3334
7	.8000	22	.3000
8	.7667	23	.2667
9	.7334	24	.2334
10	.7000	25	.2000
11	.6667	26	.1667
12	.6334	27	.1334
13	.6000	28	.1000
14	.5667	29	.0667
15	.5334	30	.0334
31	.0334		

For example, a household applying on August 20 and certified eligible to receive a monthly allotment of \$925, would receive an initial month's allotment of \$339 ( $\$925 \times .3667 = \$339.20$ , which rounds to \$339).

**1038.35.20 Initial Month Rounding and Benefits**

REV:10/1983

When using the above formula for determining the prorated allotment, round the product down to the nearest lower whole dollar if it ends in 1 through 99 cents. If the computation results in an allotment of less than \$10, round it down to \$0 and no issuance is made for the initial month.

**1038.40 MAXIMUM FOOD STAMP ALLOTMENTS**

REV:10/2005

The Maximum Food Stamp Allotments are based on the Thrifty Food Plan as developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and are uniform by household size.

Except for eligible households whose benefits are prorated for the initial month, eligible households with three (3) or more members who are entitled to no benefits in months other than the initial month, and eligible households with one (1) or two (2) members who are entitled to receive a minimum benefit of \$10.00, a household's monthly allotment is equal to the Maximum Food Stamp Allotment for the household's size reduced by 30% of the household's net monthly income as calculated in Section 1010.25.

After multiplying the net income by 30%, the product is rounded up to the next whole dollar prior to subtracting that amount from the Maximum Food Stamp Allotment. If the computation results in an allotment of \$1.00, \$3.00 or \$5.00, round up to \$2.00, \$4.00, or \$6.00, respectively. If the allotment is for a one or two person household and is less than \$10.00, or is a negative number, round up to the minimum monthly allotment of \$10.00.

Use the above formula to determine the coupon allotment if the household size is larger than twenty persons. The benefit level may be determined from the basis of issuance tables that follow.

HOUSEHOLD STAMP SIZE	MAX. FOOD STAMP ALLOTMENTS	HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MAX. FOOD ALLOTMENTS
1. . . . .	\$ 152	9. . . . .	.\$1,026
2. . . . .	278	10. . . . .	. 1,140
3. . . . .	399	11. . . . .	. 1,254
4. . . . .	506	12. . . . .	. 1,368
5. . . . .	601	13. . . . .	. 1,482
6. . . . .	722	14. . . . .	. 1,596
7. . . . .	798	15. . . . .	. 1,710
8. . . . .	912	16+ . . . . .	. 1,824+

+ For each additional member over 16, add \$114.00.

**1038.40.05                      Adjustments to the Maximum FS Allotments**  
REV:06/2001

Effective October 1, 1996, and each October 1 thereafter, the maximum food stamp allotments must be based on one hundred percent (100%) of the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan for the preceding June, rounded to the nearest lower dollar.