

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

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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; 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 1st, in response to the SSI COLA, only to increase the monthly benefit again, effective February 1st in response to the SUA increase. Information regarding the WMS mass rebudgeting/reauthorization of NYSNIP benefit levels will be provided in HRA **Project #2393 –“Changes in Standard Utility Allowance Amounts and NYSNIP Standardized Benefit Levels.”** This bulletin will be issued later this month.

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 for the period of 02/A/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 will be migrated on 01/18/09 for budgets calculated for the period of 02/A/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