

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
Center for Employment & Economic Supports

January 3, 2012

Page: 1

TO: Commissioners; TA & FS Directors; WMS Coordinators; CAP Coordinators; MA Directors

FROM: Phyllis Morris, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Center for Employment and Economic Supports

SUBJECT: Food Stamp program elderly and disabled household resource limit increase to \$3,250 effective 10/1/11

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: FS Questions – Food Stamp Bureau (518) 473-1469

Purpose:

The purpose of this GIS is to notify local districts that **the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has increased the asset limit from \$3,000 to \$3,250 for households with any aged/disabled members that still are subject to a resource test for Food Stamp Program eligibility.** While this increase was effective October 1, 2011, states were not notified of this change in federal policy until December, 2011.

The resource limit for households with out any aged/disabled members that still are subject to a resource test has not changed, and remains at \$2,000.

Background:

Generally, due to New York's implementation of expanded categorical eligibility in January 2008 (see 07 ADM-09 and 09 ADM-06), **only households with sanctioned or ineligible members and households with aged/disabled members that have income in excess of 200% of the federal poverty limit are subject to a resource test for Food Stamp Program eligibility.**

For those households that are subject to a resource test, Section 5(g) of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) provides that adjustments to the SNAP (Food Stamp Program) asset limit shall be indexed to inflation rounded down to the nearest \$250 increment.

Under the federal law:

- Adjustments to the asset limit shall reflect changes for the 12-month period ending the preceding June in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department.
- Each adjustment is based on the unrounded amount for the prior 12-month period.

The CPI increased by 3.6 percent for the 12 month period ending in June 2011.

Food Stamp Program Implications:

Based on the 3.6% increase to the CPI during the 12-month period prior to June 30, 2011 and the changes in the CPI in prior years since the passage of the FCEA, **the Food Stamp Program resource limit for households with a disabled or elderly member has been increased to \$3,250 effective October 1, 2011 and for FFY 2012.**

Local districts that are aware of any denials or closings due to excess resources (Reason Code U40) done on households with aged/disabled members, from 10/1/11 through the date of the release of this GIS, should re-evaluate these cases in light of the higher \$3,250 resource limit.