SNAP Benefit Changes for Fall 2015

In October, SNAP benefits will decrease for some clients because the cost of utilities has decreased.

Each October, the federal government makes adjustments to the cost of living (COLA), and requires states to make adjustments to their Standard Utility Allowances (SUAs). Due to the drop in energy prices over the past year, the SUAs have been reduced.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heating/Cooling</th>
<th>Nonheating</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last Year</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>Last Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>634</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The SUA decrease caused a decrease in SNAP benefits for many clients.

The 2015 adjustment will be effective October 1, 2015:

- **Approximately 35% of the SNAP caseload will see a decrease.**
- **Households impacted by this change will see a decrease of $4-$5**
- **Percent of Seniors Impacted: 56%**

**How Can I Help Clients**

Notices will go out beginning the week of September 21, 2015. Some clients may be confused by this change. Be prepared to help clients understand why their SNAP benefits decreased and refer them to other food resources.

**Tell DTA**

Advise clients to let DTA know if they have medical expenses as this may help to increase SNAP benefits for elderly or disabled clients.