



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION
Economic Services Administration
Post Office Box 45440 Olympia WA 98504-5440

January 21, 2021

TO: CSD Regional Administrators
CSD CSO Administrators
CSD CSC Administrators
HCS Administrators

FROM: Babs Roberts, Director
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Home and Community Services, AL TSA

Debbie Roberts, Deputy Assistant Secretary
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SUBJECT: BASIC FOOD ALLOTMENT 15 PERCENT INCREASE

The allotment maximums for Basic Food will receive a 15 percent increase January 2021 through June 2021 as allowed by new federal law.

Why is this happening?

Section 702 of the [Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2021](#) temporarily increases the Thrifty Food Plan maximums by 15 percent for January through June 2021.

How does this affect clients?

The 15 percent increase will be used to calculate Basic Food benefits for February through June 2021 issuances. We are working with ITS to issue January 2021 increases retroactively. Recipients were notified of this change via social media; we are not mailing letters notifying customers of the increase.

How does this affect staff?

Staff may experience inquiries regarding the increased benefits. Advise the customer:

- Increases in benefit amounts are approved in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Increased benefit amounts will appear on the regular issuance date
- This is a temporary increase that ends June 30, 2021

Ignore all basic food overpayments for February through June 2021. The Procedures Handbook is updated with instructions on how to treat overpayments January through June 2021.

15% Basic Food Increase
January 21, 2021
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What changes were made?

We are working to make updates to WAC 388-478-0060 and the E-AZ Manual.

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