



Date: June 5, 2026

DMS Operations Memo 26-22

To: Income Maintenance Supervisors
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff
FSET Agencies

Affected Programs:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☒ BadgerCare Plus | ☐ Caretaker Supplement |
| ☒ FoodShare | ☐ FoodShare Employment and Training |
| ☒ Medicaid | |
| ☐ SeniorCare | |

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Changes to the FoodShare Standard Utility Allowance

CROSS-REFERENCE

- [Operations Memo 25-13, "FoodShare Cost of Living Adjustment"](#)
- FoodShare Wisconsin Policy Handbook, [Sections 8.1.3 Deductions](#) and [4.6.7.3 Standard Utility Allowances](#)
- Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, [Section 18.6.2 Community Spouse Income Allocation](#)
- 7 C.F.R. [§ 273.9\(d\)\(6\)\(iii\)](#)
- FNS Final Rule *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Standardization of Heating and Cooling Standard Utility Allowances*

EFFECTIVE DATE

July 1, 2026

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to announce new FoodShare Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) amounts effective July 1, 2026.

BACKGROUND

The FoodShare Standard Utility Allowances (SUA) are state-specific standardized deduction amounts that households can receive based on the types of utility costs they have. There are seven different types

of utility deductions. The SUA amounts are updated annually to reflect changes in utility costs. In addition, recent federal guidance updated the methodologies that states must use to calculate SUA amounts. Wisconsin's updated SUA amounts, which are based on these new methodologies, were approved by the federal Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in May 2026 with an implementation date of July 1, 2026.

Some FoodShare allowance amounts are also used in the calculation of patient liability and cost share amounts for Institutional Medicaid and Waiver Medicaid spousal impoverishment cases, see Medicaid Eligibility Handbook (MEH).

POLICY

Effective July 1, 2026, FoodShare and Medicaid cases and applications will use the new standard utility allowances. Households will receive a Notice of Decision if the new allowance amounts result in a change to their benefits.

The updated standard utility allowances are listed in the table below.

SUA Type	Old Amount	New Amount	Type of Utility Allowance
Heating Standard Utility Allowance (HSUA)	\$553	\$870	Heating
Limited Utility Allowance (LUA)	\$385	\$436	Non-heat electric with at least one other qualifying expense
Electric Utility Allowance (EUA)	\$155	\$139	Electric Utility Allowance
Water and Sewer Utility Allowance (WUA)	\$106	\$112	Water and Sewer
Cooking Fuel Utility Allowance (FUA)	\$48	\$34	Cooking Fuel
Phone Utility Allowance (PUA)	\$31	\$106	Telephone
Trash Utility Allowance (TUA)	\$28	\$47	Garbage and Trash

Changes to the HSUA, LUA, and PUA standard utility allowances are used to calculate patient liability and cost share amounts for Institutional Medicaid and Waiver Medicaid spousal impoverishment cases. As a result of increases to the HSUA, LUA, and PUA, some Medicaid long term care recipients will have a reduced patient liability or cost share starting July 1, 2026.

Changes to benefits resulting from the annual changes cannot be overturned in a fair hearing; however, members still have the right to request a fair hearing.

CONTACTS

DHS CARES Problem Resolution Team

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