

November 1 ARRA Food Assistance Decreases Talking Points

- In April 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), commonly known as the stimulus package, raised food assistance benefits by 13.6% to help people affected by the recession.
- The increased benefits provided by this law are expiring November 1, 2013.
- Food assistance clients will see two changes in their benefit amounts during the fall of 2013.
 1. First, benefits will increase slightly for most households on October 1 to reflect the increases in the standard deduction amounts, excess shelter deduction and the standard utility allowance and limited utility allowance.
 2. Then, ALL families will see their benefits decrease on November 1 due to the end of the increased benefits provided by the 2009 law. Even the minimum benefit of \$16 is being decreased to \$15.

The following chart shows the November 1 reduction in benefits for each household size:

Household Size	October 1, 2013 Maximum Benefits	November 1, 2013 Maximum Benefit	Difference
1	\$200	\$189	-\$11
2	\$367	\$347	-\$20
3	\$526	\$497	-\$29
4	\$668	\$632	-\$36
5	\$793	\$750	-\$43
6	\$952	\$900	-\$52
7	\$1,052	\$995	-\$57
8	\$1,202	\$1,137	-\$65
Each additional person	\$150	\$142	-\$8

In addition, the minimum allotment of \$16 is decreasing to \$15.

All food assistance benefits are based on household size, household income and allowable deductions. However, since the maximum benefit amount is decreasing, every household will have reduced benefits as noted above in the "Difference" column solely based on the expiration of the ARRA increases.

Persons may file an appeal over this decrease in benefits, HOWEVER, if the appeal is based solely on the ARRA benefits ending, the appeal shall be submitted to Administrative Hearings with an ARRA Motion to Dismiss form. (Sent to the field with the notification of the November 1 KAECSES mass change to decrease benefits.) If the change in benefits is due to any other factors, such as an increase in income, or decrease in household size, then the appeal will be conducted.

USDA provides shopping strategies and meal planning advice to help families serve more nutritious meals affordably through the following:

- [10-Tips Nutrition Series](http://www.choosemyplate.gov/healthy-eating-tips/ten-tips.html) (<http://www.choosemyplate.gov/healthy-eating-tips/ten-tips.html>)
- [ChooseMyPlate.gov](http://www.choosemyplate.gov/) (<http://www.choosemyplate.gov/>)
- [Plan, Compare and Prepare](http://blogs.usda.gov/2013/03/28/healthy-eating-on-a-budget/) (<http://blogs.usda.gov/2013/03/28/healthy-eating-on-a-budget/>)
- [Eat Right When Money's Tight](http://snap.nal.usda.gov/resource-library/eat-right-when-moneys-tight). (<http://snap.nal.usda.gov/resource-library/eat-right-when-moneys-tight>)

The [Recipe Box](http://www.fns.usda.gov/fncs-recipe-box) (<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fncs-recipe-box>) helps find healthy low cost recipes and create cookbooks and shopping lists.

Additional questions shall be directed to Pam Jacob (785-296-5416) or Sandra Kimmons (785-296-8867).