



Rhode Island Department of Human Services
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
57 Howard Avenue, Louis Pasteur Building, Cranston, RI 02920

August 17, 2018

Megan Kallio, MS, RD
Program Specialist
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Northeast Region
10 Causeway Street, Room 501
Boston, MA 02222

RE: Standard Utility Allowance for FFY 2019

Dear Ms. Kallio:

Pursuant to 7 CFR 273.9(d)(6), the Rhode Island Department of Human Services is reporting an increase in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Standard Utility Allowance (SUA). Rhode Island is submitting a proposed SUA of \$635.00 to take effect October 1, 2018. Please note this is a decrease in the projection reported in May 2018.

To determine the SUA values for FFY 2019, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Fuel and Utility value for June of 2018 was compared to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Fuel and Utility value for June of 2017. The percentage change between June 2017 and June 2018 was applied to our current SUA. The calculation is as follows:

June 2017 CPI for Fuel and Utilities	241.940
June 2018 CPI for Fuel and Utilities	244.560

From June 2017 to June 2018 the difference of +2.62 creates a 1.08% positive change. Adding 1.08% to Rhode Island's current SUA of \$638 increases our target to \$645.

The proposed figure has been determined in accordance with the current USDA-approved methodology for adjusting the SUA.

The SUA of \$645 will be reduced to achieve cost neutrality for our Standard Medical Deduction in the amount of \$10, resulting in a net SUA of \$635.

Additionally, Rhode Island requests approval to maintain our telephone standard in the amount of \$23.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 401-415-8433 or by e-mail at Iwona.Ramian@dhs.ri.gov.

Sincerely,



Iwona Ramian, Esq.
SNAP Administrator

cc: Courtney Hawkins, Director, RI DHS
Yvette Mendez, Deputy Director, RI DHS
Kimberly Brito, Deputy Director, RI DHS
Maureen Donnelly, Associate Director Operations, RI DHS
Kimberly Nikolaidis, Assistant SNAP Administrator, RI DHS
Bonnie Brathwaite, Director, USDA, FNS
Matthew Henschel, Policy Team Lead, USDA, FNS
Maria Volpe, RI State Desk, USDA, FNS