

Part 1: Income Guideline Changes

The federal poverty level increased resulting in an increase to the maximum income guidelines. Below is a comparison of last year's gross income test (185% FPL) to this year's gross income.

Gross Income 185% FPL	*NEW* October 2015- September 2016	October 2014- September 2015
Household size	Maximum monthly gross income	Maximum monthly gross income
1	\$1,815	\$1,800
2	\$2,457	\$2,425
3	\$3,099	\$3,053
4	\$3,739	\$3,678
5	\$4,381	\$4,303
6	\$5,023	\$4,930
Additional	\$642	\$627

- In order to receive SNAP benefits most households will also have to meet a net income test of 100%FPL. That income guideline also increased.
- Households of one or two people may be eligible by only meeting the gross and without having the net.

The federal poverty level change also resulted in an increase to the net income guidelines. Below is a comparison of last year's net income test (100% FPL) to this year's net income.

Net Income 100% FPL	*NEW* October 2015- September 2016	October 2014- September 2015
Household size	Maximum monthly net income	Maximum monthly net income
1	\$981	\$973
2	\$1,328	\$1,311
3	\$1,675	\$1,650
4	\$2,021	\$1,988
5	\$2,368	\$2,326
6	\$2,715	\$2,665
Additional	\$347	\$339

- In Rhode Island, most households no longer are required to meet the asset test.
- Generally, the asset test applies some to seniors and individuals with disabilities whose gross income, of above 200%FPL, is higher than would be allowable for other households.
- The asset test for higher income seniors and disabled individuals remains \$3,250.

Part 2: Deduction Changes

The deductions taken by DHS are to establish a net income. The net income is used as a measure of eligibility as well as the basis of benefit calculation. Households may experience an change in benefits as a result of the changes below.

Standard Deduction: A flat amount deducted from everyone's income by household size. **The standard deduction has changed for households of four+.**

Household Size	**New October 2015- September 2016	October 2014- September 2015
1-3	\$155 (no change)	\$155
4	\$168	\$165
5	\$197	\$193
6+	\$226	\$221

Standard Utility Allowance: A flat amount entered into the excess shelter deduction calculation for any household paying a heating or cooling bill or that receives or expects to receive a LIHEAP grant. **The standard utility allowance has decreased from \$627 to \$613.**

Maximum Shelter Deduction: The maximum amount deducted for shelter expenses for households where no one is elderly or disabled. **The maximum shelter deduction has increased from \$490 to \$504.**

Part 3: Benefit Changes

Monthly SNAP benefit amounts are determined by the SNAP recipient's net income as determined after appropriate deductions are taken from the gross income.

Benefit amounts fall within a range by household size. Benefit amounts did not change from 2014-2015 levels.

Household size	Minimum Benefit	Maximum Benefit
1	\$16	\$194
2	\$16	\$357
3 +	\$2	\$511
Household size	Minimum Benefit	Maximum Benefit
1	\$16	\$194
2	\$16	\$357
3	\$2	\$511
4	\$2	\$649
5	\$2	\$771
6	\$2	\$925
7	\$2	\$1,022
8	\$2	\$1,169
9	\$2	\$1,315
10	\$2	\$1,461
16+	\$2	Add \$146