



*Integrated Access  
and Support Services*  
An Office of the  
Department of Health and Human Services

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Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)  
Office of Integrated Access and Support (OIAS)

**General Assistance (GA)**

Operating Memorandum (OM): 09-3  
Date: 2/25/09

Replaces memo dated:

**Purpose:** The purpose of this operating memo is to provide you with the new Food Supplement (Food Stamps) amounts that go into effect on April 1, 2009. The change is because of the Stimulus Bill signed by President Obama on February 17, 2009.

**Principle:** The model ordinances developed by Maine Municipal Association require welfare administrators to provide food assistance to eligible persons up to the allowed maximum amounts designated by the U.S.D.A. Thrifty Food Plan for the appropriate household size.

The U.S.D.A. Thrifty Food Plan is distributed by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services on or about October of each year. This is Appendix B. The maximums normally change only once a year.

As part of the newly adopted Stimulus Bill the U.S.D.A. Thrifty Food Plan has increased to help provide additional food to the households receiving Food Supplements and to put additional money into the economy. The change is effective from April 1, 2009 to September 30, 2009, when the new Food Supplement allotments are usually developed. They may not increase in October 2009.