

## What's Changed on 09/08/2025

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This page notifies staff and the public of changes to the Cash and Nutrition Assistance Policy (CNAP) Manual regarding policy, procedures, and forms. Reminders and general information may also be displayed on this page. Prior What's Changed pages are listed in [What's Changed History](#) of the CNAP Manual.

The above list summarizes the information on this page. Each item listed above links to the corresponding section below.

The information on this page must be discussed during the weekly [policy dissemination](#) in every office which determines eligibility, reviews eligibility, or answers questions regarding eligibility. ([Current week's FAA-1215A](#))

### Change: FFY 2026 COLA Updates

EFFECTIVE DATE: For determinations completed on or after 10/2025.

Every fiscal year, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) provides the federal fiscal year (FFY) Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) to the NA maximum allotments, income eligibility standards, and deductions.

In accordance with the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, **all** of the following COLA changes affect NA and CA eligibility in Arizona for FFY 2026 starting 10/01/2025:

- The NA net and NA gross monthly income eligibility standards have increased.
- The maximum NA allotments have increased.  
NOTE (Also known as the Thrifty Food Plan).
- The Maximum Shelter Deduction increased.
- The Homeless Shelter Deduction increased.
- The Standard Deduction increased for all household sizes.
- All utility allowances increased (Standard, Limited, and Telephone).
- The minimum NA allotment has increased.
- The NA elderly or disabled standard increased.

There are no changes to **any** of the following for FFY 2026:

- The Lottery or Gambling Winnings Reporting Threshold.
- The Maximum NA Resource Limit.

The CA Needy Family Test Income Standards change when the NA federal poverty levels (FPL) change. The CA Needy Family Test Income Standards uses the current NA 100% and 130% FPLs.

The NA Expanded Categorical Eligibility Standard (185% FPL) increased for FFY 2026 starting 10/01/2025.

The Overpayment Compromise (200% of the current FPL) increased for FFY 2026 starting 10/01/2025.

**Policy reference(s) revised due to this change:**

- FAA5.B01 titled FFY 2026 NA COLA Changes
- FAA6.J02A.04 titled CA Needy Family Test Income Standards (100% FPL)
- FAA6.J02A.05 titled CA Needy Family Test Income Standards (130% FPL)
- FAA6.J02B.01 titled NA Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standard (130% FPL)
- FAA6.J02B.02 titled NA Net Monthly Income Eligibility Standard (100% FPL)
- FAA6.J02B.03 titled NA Elderly or Disability Eligibility Standard (165% FPL)
- FAA6.J02B.04 titled NA Expanded Categorical Eligibility Standard (185% FPL)
- FAA6.J02B.05 titled 200% of Federal Poverty Level (Compromise Overpayment)
- FAA6.J03A titled NA Homeless Shelter Deduction Amount
- FAA6.J03B titled NA Standard Deduction Amount
- FAA6.J03C titled NA Shelter Deduction Amount
- FAA6.J05 titled Minimum NA Allotment
- FAA6.J08 titled Thrifty Food Plan (NA)
- FAA6.J09 titled Utility Allowance Current Amount

**Clarification: Discrimination Complaint**

Assignment Number: 25-1751B Sasha/st

When anyone makes a complaint verbally, and for any reason the signature is unavailable, FAA staff completes **one or more** of the following:

- For NA, because the Office of Equal Opportunities (OEO) does not investigate NA discrimination complaints, FAA staff assists by completing **one or more** of the following:

Encourages the person to file the discrimination complaint with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) by navigating to **all** of the following:

- The USDA Home page
- About USDA
- General Information
- Staff Offices
- Office of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
- How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint

The completed form can then be submitted by email or mail.

When the person prefers to submit their complaint verbally, FAA will gather all the information and will email the USDA with all the complainant information at [FNSCivilRightsComplaints@USDA.gov](mailto:FNSCivilRightsComplaints@USDA.gov).

- For CA, a designated staff member completes **one or more** of the following:

When the person is not available to provide a written or electronic signature, FAA will mail, email, or fax (when available) the J-020 form. The J-020 form includes instructions for how the complainant can submit their signed form.

When the person prefers to submit their complaint verbally, FAA will gather all of the information and will email OEO with all the complainant information at [OfficeofEqualOpportunity@azdes.gov](mailto:OfficeofEqualOpportunity@azdes.gov).

FAA staff must document the discrimination complaint on the FAA-1280A form. The FAA-1280A form must be kept in a secure location that only the OEO specialist, designated staff, and management can access.

See [FAA1.C01L.01](#) titled Discrimination Complaint for more information.

### **Clarification: Optional NA Participants**

Assignment Number: 25-1345B Adele/dmw

A parent, child, or sibling can be considered an optional participant when they are not a mandatory participant and **all** of the following are met:

- They live in a separate dwelling or vehicle on the property of their parent, child, or sibling.
- The separate dwelling or vehicle is considered their primary residence.
- They do not use the bathroom or kitchen within the home of their parent, child, or sibling on a regular basis.

For more information on budgetary units, see [FAA2.A06](#) titled Determining Budgetary Units.

### **General Information: Forms Update**

See Christina

## Changes to Forms – 08/30/2025 through 09/05/2025

As a reminder, it is important not to save documents on your desktop or a folder. It is better to use the form you need directly from the [Document Center](#). Forms are frequently updated and sometimes the current form must be used for programming purposes.

### Revised forms:

- No forms were revised during the specified period.

### Newly created forms:

- No forms were created during the specified period.

### Revised Marketing Materials (Posters, Pamphlets, Flyers):

- No revisions to marketing materials were made during the specified period.

### New Marketing Materials (Posters, Pamphlets, Flyers):

- No new marketing materials were created during the specified period.

### Forms and Marketing Materials Archived from the Document Center:

- No forms were archived from the Document Center.