

## What's Changed on 08/24/2020

Change: Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)

Reminder: Lost Wage Assistance (LWA) Unemployment Program

General Information: Yuma Office Move

General Information: Forms Update

This page relays to 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 [FAA6.R01](#) of the CNAP Manual.

The above list summarizes the information on this page. Within the CNAP Manual, each item listed above links to screens below.

### ***Change: Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)***

EFFECTIVE DATE: For eligibility determinations for the benefit month of 10/2020 and after.

Every year changes are made to the Federal Poverty Levels (FPL), this is referred as the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA). This includes changes to income limits, deductions, and benefits beginning with the start of the 2021 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY), October 1, 2020.

The COLA impacts the NA program, the CA Needy Family Test, and the Compromise Overpayment.

The following amounts changed with FFY 2021 COLA updates:

- CA Need Family Test for Income Standards of 100% and 130% of the FPL
- NA Gross Monthly Income Standard of 130%
- NA Net Monthly Income Standard of 100% FPL
- NA Disabled/Elderly Income Standard of 165% FPL
- Expanded Categorical Income Standard of 185%
- Compromise Overpayment 200% FPL
- NA Standard Deduction Amounts based on NA budgetary unit size
- Homeless Shelter Deduction amount
- NA Maximum Shelter Deduction amount
- Maximum NA Benefit
- Standard Utility Allowance
- Telephone Allowance

The following amounts did not change:

- Minimum NA Benefit
- Maximum NA Resource Limits

**Reminder about the Current System Month:**

Applications approved for ongoing benefits must be authorized in the Current System Month (CSM) of October 2020. FAA Systems completes a mass change on 09-12-20. All NA cases not authorized in the CSM of October 2020, rolled and authorized to future months, November and December would not be updated with this mass change. To ensure participants receive their benefits correctly, cases must be in the CSM of October 2020. Cases not in the CSM have to be re-worked.

NOTE Monthly rollover for the CSM of October 2020 is August 29, 2020.

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Policy reference(s) revised due to this change:

NOTE To view the FFY 2020 amounts in the CNAP Manual, click on the link named 'Previous Years' at the top of each reference.

FAA6.J03A.03 – [CA Needy Family Test Income Standards \(100% FPL\)](#)

Updated to the 2021 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) amounts.

FAA6.J03A.04 – [CA Needy Family Test Income Standards \(130%\)](#)

Updated to the 2021 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) amounts.

FAA6.J03.B01 – [NA Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standard \(130% FPL\)](#)

Updated to the 2021 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) amounts.

FAA6.J03B.02 – [NA Net Monthly Income Eligibility Standard \(100% FPL\)](#)

Updated to the 2021 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) amounts.

FAA6.J03B.03 – [NA Disabled Elderly Eligibility Standard \(165% FPL\)](#)

Updated to the 2021 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) amounts.

FAA6.J03B.04 – [NA Expanded Categorical Eligibility Standard \(185% FPL\)](#)

Updated to the 2021 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) amounts.

FAA6.J03B.05 – [200% of Federal Poverty Level \(Compromise Overpayment\)](#)

Updated to the 2021 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) amounts.

FAA6.J04A – [NA Homeless Shelter Deduction Amount](#)

Updated to the 2021 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) amounts.

FAA6.J04B – [Standard Deduction Amount](#)

Updated to the 2021 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) amounts.

#### FAA6.J04C – [Shelter Deduction Amount](#)

Updated to the 2021 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) amounts.

#### FAA6.J10 – [Thrifty Food Plan \(NA\) - Maximum NA Benefit](#)

Updated to the 2021 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) amounts.

#### FAA6.J11 – [Utility Allowance Current Amount](#)

Updated to the 2021 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) amounts.

### ***Reminder: Lost Wage Assistance (LWA) Unemployment Program***

An [Urgent Bulletin](#) was emailed on 08/21/2020 to inform staff that on August 8, 2020, the President Issued the Memorandum on Authorizing the Other Needs Assistance Program for Major Disaster Declaration Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019. The memorandum establishes the Lost Wage Assistance (LWA) unemployment program.

The LWA provides an eligible participant with \$300 a week in addition to the weekly benefit amount they receive from certain other Unemployment Compensation (UC) programs. The LWA program is effective beginning the week ending 08/01/2020 until 12/05/2020 or until dollars set aside in the fund run out.

The LWA payment began in Arizona on 08/17/2020 for the week ending 08/15/2020. Participants will also receive retroactive payments for benefit weeks ending 08/01/2020 and 08/08/2020.

In order to qualify for the LWA benefit, participants must qualify for any of the following UC programs:

- Unemployment Insurance (UI)
- Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE)
- Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service members (UCX)
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
- Extended Benefits (EB)
- Shared Work (SW)
- Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA)

When budgeting the LWA, consider the following:

- LWA is countable in full for Nutrition Assistance (NA) and Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)
- LWA is not countable for Cash Assistance (CA)

The LWA income is keyed separately from the other types of UC income listed above.

On UNIN, key the UI LW Income Type Code in the INC TYPE field for NA and CA. Key the weekly amount on UNIC in the month it is received using the WK Frequency Code.

Participants will begin to receive retroactive payments in the month of 08/2020. The retroactive

Participants will begin to receive retroactive payments in the month of 08/2020. The retroactive payments are intended to cover the weeks ending 08/01/2020 and 08/08/2020. Any retroactive payments received in the month of 08/2020 are considered received in the month they are intended and should be budgeted in that month.

**For cases with RCA only or RCA and NA:**

To count the regular UC and the LWA income, key the UI OT Income Type Code in the INC TYPE field on UNIN.

Key the weekly amount on UNIC in the month it is received using the WK Frequency Code.

**General Information: Yuma Office Move**

Effective 08/24/2020 the Yuma office has moved to the following location.

FAA Site 433C

1800 E Palo Verde Street  
Mail Drop 33C2  
Yuma AZ 85364

Phone and fax numbers remain the same

**General Information: Forms Update**

Changes to Forms – 08/15/2020 through 08/21/2020

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