



December 20, 2006

Food Stamp Helpline

As you know, food assistance is especially important during the winter months. We at St. Clair County MSU Extension are all well aware of the adverse effects of winter on one's budget. While food assistance does not pay for the heating bill, food assistance does help to supplement one's budget. This is especially true during tough economic times. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the Department of Human Services (DHS) heat and utility standard (for food assistance program (FAP) recipients) increased as of March 2006. The monthly heat and utility standard increased from \$464 to \$588. Due to an even more recent update, the new heat and utility standard now stands at \$587.



ST. CLAIR COUNTY
Extension

200 Grand River Avenue
Suite 102
Port Huron MI 48060
810.989.6935
FX 810.985.3557

The implications of this increase were automatic for those who were already receiving food assistance benefits. However, you (or someone you know) may now be eligible for food assistance benefits due to the increased heat and utility standard. This may be true even if you have been denied benefits in the past.

We at St. Clair County MSU Extension urge all who have been denied food assistance benefits (previous to March 2006) due to excess income, as well as those who may have thought they would not be eligible, to call the Food Stamp Helpline at 1(800)481-4989 to find out how much assistance they may be able to receive.

Demetrice L. Nuckles
Food and Nutrition Program Coordinator
Center For Civil Justice
436 S. Saginaw St., Suite 501
Flint, MI 48502
Voice: (810) 244-8044
Fax: (810) 244-5550

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status or family status.
Michigan State University,
U.S. Department of Agriculture
and Counties cooperating.
MSU is an affirmative-action
equal opportunity institution.

O:msue/fcs/nutrition food stamp helpline 12 20 06 lb