

## FOOD STAMP PROGRAM REQUEST FOR REGULATION INTERPRETATION

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete items 1 - 10 on the form. Use a separate form for each policy interpretation request. Retain a copy of the FS 24 for your records. For counties asking for policy interpretations, submit the question directly to a FRAT representative via e-mail. For other organizations (e.g., Quality Control, Administrative Law Judges), submit questions directly to the Food Stamp Policy Implementation Unit or Employment and Special Projects Unit representative via e-mail.

1. RESPONSE NEEDED DUE TO: <input type="checkbox"/> Policy/Regulation Interpretation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> QC <input type="checkbox"/> Fair Hearing <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate Need/Emergency Services <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	5. DATE OF REQUEST: <b>03/20/12</b>	NEED RESPONSE BY:
2. REQUESTOR NAME: <b>Maher Alhakeem, QC supervisor</b>	6. COUNTY/ORGANIZATION: <b>San Francisco County, Agency of Human Services</b>	
3. PHONE NO.: <b>(415)503-4810</b>	7. SUBJECT: <b>Homeless be eligible to HSA (\$143) for incurring phone cost</b>	
4. REGULATION CITE(S):	8. REFERENCES: <i>(Include ACL/ACIN, court cases, etc. in references)</i> NOTE: All requests must have a regulation cite(s) and/or a reference(s). <b>63-502.351</b> <b>63-502.362(a)</b> <b>63-502.363(a)(1)(A)</b> <b>ACIN I-18-07</b>	

9. QUESTION: (INCLUDE SCENARIO IF NEEDED FOR CLARITY):  
 We have a case of a homeless client who pays for his cell phone on a monthly basis about \$42. So if the utility cost component is included in the homeless shelter allowance such as SUA, does it mean, also, that the cell phone expense treated as utility cost component and qualifies the homeless HH to receive the homeless shelter allowance.

10. REQUESTOR'S PROPOSED ANSWER:  
 My understanding is that the client will be entitled to receive the homeless shelter deduction (currently \$143) if he/she incurs phone expense.

11. FRAT RESPONSE TO COUNTY QUESTION:

12. STATE POLICY RESPONSE (FSPIU USE ONLY):

An individual with a cell phone can be eligible for a TUA per MPP 63-502.363(e) "...It shall be used only in instances where the household has a telephone, or in its absence, an equivalent form of communications." However, in order for a homeless individual to claim the TUA, they must be using actual verified shelter costs instead of the homeless shelter deduction, according to MPP 63-502.362(a), which states "If actual verified homeless shelter costs are higher than the homeless shelter deduction, the actual cost may be used as a housing cost instead of a homeless shelter deduction, and utility cost may be claimed." "If a homeless shelter deduction is used, separate utility costs are not allowed, since this allowance includes a utility cost component." per MPP 63-502.351. If the homeless recipient does not use actual shelter costs, the TUA cannot be claimed.

### FOR FRAT USE

DATE RECEIVED:	DATE RESPONDED TO COUNTY:	DATE FORWARDED TO STATE:
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