

REGULATIONS RELATING TO SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE

Regulations relating to basic allowance for subsistence, see Ex. Ord. No. 11157, June 22, 1964, 29 F.R. 7973, formerly set out as a note under section 301 of this title.

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 10119

Ex. Ord. No. 10119, Mar. 30, 1950, 15 F.R. 1767, as amended by 1953 Reorg. Plan No. 1, §§5, 8, Apr. 11, 1953, 18 F.R. 2053; Ex. Ord. No. 10605, Apr. 22, 1955, 20 F.R. 2747, which related to regulations governing basic allowance for subsistence, was revoked by Ex. Ord. No. 11157, June 22, 1964, 29 F.R. 7973, formerly set out as a note under section 301 of this title.

§ 402a. Supplemental subsistence allowance for low-income members with dependents

(a) SUPPLEMENTAL ALLOWANCE REQUIRED.—(1) The Secretary concerned shall increase the basic allowance for subsistence to which a member of the armed forces described in subsection (b) is otherwise entitled under section 402 of this title by an amount (in this section referred to as the “supplemental subsistence allowance”) designed to remove the member’s household from eligibility for benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

(2) The supplemental subsistence allowance may not exceed \$1,100 per month. In establishing the amount of the supplemental subsistence allowance to be paid an eligible member under this paragraph, the Secretary shall take into consideration the amount of the basic allowance for housing that the member receives under section 403 of this title or would otherwise receive under such section, in the case of a member who is not entitled to that allowance as a result of assignment to quarters of the United States or a housing facility under the jurisdiction of a uniformed service.

(3) In the case of a member described in subsection (b) who establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary concerned that the allotment of the member’s household under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, calculated in the absence of the supplemental subsistence allowance, would exceed the amount established by the Secretary concerned under paragraph (2), the amount of the supplemental subsistence allowance for the member shall be equal to the lesser of the following:

- (A) The value of that allotment.
- (B) \$1,100.

(b) MEMBERS ENTITLED TO ALLOWANCE.—(1) Subject to subsection (d) and paragraph (4), a member of the armed forces with dependents is entitled to receive the supplemental subsistence allowance if the Secretary concerned determines that the member’s income, together with the income of the rest of the member’s household (if any), is within the highest income standard of eligibility, as then in effect under section 5(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(c)) and without regard to paragraph (1) of such section, for participation in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

(2) In determining whether a member meets the eligibility criteria under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall take into consideration the amount of the basic allowance for

housing that the member receives under section 403 of this title or would otherwise receive under such section, in the case of a member who is not entitled to that allowance as a result of assignment to quarters of the United States or a housing facility under the jurisdiction of a uniformed service.

(3) In determining whether a member meets the eligibility criteria under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall not take into consideration—

(A) the amount of the supplemental subsistence allowance that is payable under this section;

(B) the amount of any special pay that is payable to the member under section 310 of this title, relating to duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger; or

(C) the amount of any family separation allowance that is payable to the member under section 427 of this title.

(4) After September 30, 2016, a member is eligible for a supplemental subsistence allowance under this section only if the member is serving outside the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or Guam.

(c) APPLICATION FOR ALLOWANCE.—To request the supplemental subsistence allowance, a member shall submit an application to the Secretary concerned in such form and containing such information as the Secretary concerned may prescribe. A member applying for the supplemental subsistence allowance shall furnish such evidence regarding the member’s satisfaction of the eligibility criteria under subsection (b) as the Secretary concerned may require.

(d) EFFECTIVE PERIOD.—The entitlement of a member to receive the supplemental subsistence allowance terminates upon the occurrence of any of the following events, even though the member continues to meet the eligibility criteria described in subsection (b):

- (1) Payment of the supplemental subsistence allowance for 12 consecutive months.
- (2) Promotion of the member to a higher grade.
- (3) Transfer of the member in a permanent change of station.

(e) REAPPLICATION.—Upon the termination of the effective period of the supplemental subsistence allowance for a member, or in anticipation of the imminent termination of the allowance, a member may reapply for the allowance under subsection (c), and the Secretary concerned shall approve the application and resume payment of the allowance to the member, if the member continues to meet, or once again meets, the eligibility criteria described in subsection (b).

(f) ELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.—(1) A child or spouse of a member of the armed forces receiving the supplemental subsistence allowance under this section who, except on account of the receipt of such allowance, would be eligible to receive a benefit described in paragraph (2) shall be considered to be eligible for that benefit notwithstanding the receipt of such allowance.

(2) The benefits referred to in paragraph (1) are as follows:

(A) Assistance provided under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

(B) Assistance provided under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.).

(C) A service provided under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.).

(D) Assistance under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858¹ et seq.).

(3) A household that includes a member of the armed forces receiving the supplemental subsistence allowance under this section and that, except on account of the receipt of such allowance, would be eligible to receive a benefit under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8621 et seq.) shall be considered to be eligible for that benefit notwithstanding the receipt of such allowance.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “Secretary concerned” means—

(A) the Secretary of Defense; and

(B) the Secretary of Homeland Security, with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy.

(2) The terms “allotment” and “household” have the meanings given those terms in section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).

(3) The term “supplemental nutrition assistance program” means the program established pursuant to section 4 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013).

(Added Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [div. A], title VI, §604(a)(1), Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-145; amended Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title VI, §604(d), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1134; Pub. L. 107-296, title XVII, §1704(c), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2314; Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title VI, §602(a), (b), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1943; Pub. L. 109-163, div. A, title VI, §608, Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3289; Pub. L. 109-364, div. A, title X, §1071(c)(6), (e)(4), Oct. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 2401; Pub. L. 110-234, title IV, §4002(b)(1)(A), (B), (2)(T), May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1095-1097; Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title IV, §4002(b)(1)(A), (B), (2)(T), June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 1857, 1858; Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title VI, §602(a), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2347; Pub. L. 112-81, div. A, title X, §1063(a), Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1586; Pub. L. 114-92, div. A, title VI, §602, Nov. 25, 2015, 129 Stat. 836.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, referred to in subsec. (f)(2)(A), is act June 4, 1946, ch. 281, 60 Stat. 230, which is classified generally to chapter 13 (§1751 et seq.) of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1751 of Title 42 and Tables.

The Child Nutrition Act of 1966, referred to in subsec. (f)(2)(B), is Pub. L. 89-642, Oct. 11, 1966, 80 Stat. 885, which is classified generally to chapter 13A (§1771 et seq.) of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1771 of Title 42 and Tables.

The Head Start Act, referred to in subsec. (f)(2)(C), is subchapter B (§635 et seq.) of chapter 8 of subtitle A of title VI of Pub. L. 97-35, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 499, which is classified generally to subchapter II (§9831 et seq.) of chapter 105 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 9801 of Title 42 and Tables.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, referred to in subsec. (f)(2)(D), is subchapter C (§658A et seq.) of chapter 8 of subtitle A of title VI of Pub. L. 97-35, as added by Pub. L. 101-508, title V, §5082(2), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1388-236, which is classified generally to subchapter II-B (§9857 et seq.) of chapter 105 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 9857(a) of Title 42 and Tables.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, referred to in subsec. (f)(3), is title XXVI of Pub. L. 97-35, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 893, which is classified principally to subchapter II (§8621 et seq.) of chapter 94 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 8621 of Title 42 and Tables.

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 110-234 and Pub. L. 110-246 made identical amendments to this section. The amendments by Pub. L. 110-234 were repealed by section 4(a) of Pub. L. 110-246.

AMENDMENTS

2015—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 114-92, §602(1), inserted “and paragraph (4)” after “subsection (d)”.

Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 114-92, §602(2), added par. (4).

2011—Subsecs. (f) to (h). Pub. L. 112-81 redesignated subsecs. (g) and (h) as (f) and (g), respectively, and struck out former subsec. (f). Prior to amendment, text of subsec. (f) read as follows: “Not later than March 1 of each year after 2001, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report specifying the number of members of the armed forces who received, at any time during the preceding year, the supplemental subsistence allowance. In preparing the report, the Secretary of Defense shall consult with the Secretary of Homeland Security, with respect to the Coast Guard.”

2009—Subsec. (a)(2), (3)(B). Pub. L. 111-84 substituted “\$1,100” for “\$500”.

2008—Subsec. (a)(1), (3). Pub. L. 110-246, §4002(b)(1)(A), (2)(T), substituted “supplemental nutrition assistance program” for “food stamp program”.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 110-246, §4002(b)(1)(A), (B), (2)(T), substituted “Food and Nutrition Act of 2008” for “Food Stamp Act of 1977” and “supplemental nutrition assistance program” for “food stamp program”.

Subsec. (h)(2). Pub. L. 110-246, §4002(b)(1)(B), (2)(T), substituted “Food and Nutrition Act of 2008” for “Food Stamp Act of 1977”.

Subsec. (h)(3). Pub. L. 110-246, §4002(b)(1)(A), (B), (2)(T), substituted “supplemental nutrition assistance program” for “food stamp program” and “Food and Nutrition Act of 2008” for “Food Stamp Act of 1977”.

2006—Subsec. (b)(3)(B). Pub. L. 109-364, §1071(c)(6), substituted “title” for “section”.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 109-163, §608(b), as amended by Pub. L. 109-364, §1071(e)(4), substituted “Secretary of Homeland Security, with respect to the Coast Guard” for “Secretary of Transportation” and struck out at end “No report is required under this subsection after March 1, 2006.”

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 109-163, §608(a), struck out heading and text of subsec. (i). Text read as follows: “No supplemental subsistence allowance may be provided under this section after September 30, 2006.”

2004—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 108-375, §602(a)(1), substituted “concerned” for dash after “Secretary” and struck out “(A) shall not take into consideration the amount of the supplemental subsistence allowance pay-

¹ See References in Text note below.

able under this section; but” and subpar. (B) designation before “shall take”.

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 108-375, §602(a)(2), added par. (3).

Subsecs. (g) to (i). Pub. L. 108-375, §602(b), added subsec. (g) and redesignated former subsecs. (g) and (h) as (h) and (i), respectively.

2002—Subsec. (g)(1)(B). Pub. L. 107-296 substituted “of Homeland Security” for “of Transportation”.

2001—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 107-107 inserted “with dependents” after “a member of the armed forces”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2009 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title VI, §602(b), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2347, provided that: “The amendments made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect on October 1, 2009, and shall apply with respect to monthly supplemental subsistence allowances for low-income members with dependents payable on or after that date.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Amendment of this section and repeal of Pub. L. 110-234 by Pub. L. 110-246 effective May 22, 2008, the date of enactment of Pub. L. 110-234, except as otherwise provided, see section 4 of Pub. L. 110-246, set out as an Effective Date note under section 8701 of Title 7, Agriculture.

Amendment by section 4002(b)(1)(A), (B), (2)(T) of Pub. L. 110-246 effective Oct. 1, 2008, see section 4407 of Pub. L. 110-246, set out as a note under section 1161 of Title 2, The Congress.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2006 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 109-364, div. A, title X, §1071(e), Oct. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 2401, provided that the amendment made by section 1071(e)(4) is effective as of Jan. 6, 2006, and as if included in Pub. L. 109-163 as enacted.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2004 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title VI, §602(c), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1944, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section] shall apply in determining, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 28, 2004], the eligibility of a person for a supplemental subsistence allowance under section 402a of title 37, United States Code, or for Federal assistance under a law specified in subsection (g) of such section, as so amended.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-296 effective on the date of transfer of the Coast Guard to the Department of Homeland Security, see section 1704(g) of Pub. L. 107-296, set out as a note under section 101 of Title 10, Armed Forces.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A], title VI, §604(b)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-147, provided that: “Section 402a of title 37, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the first day of the first month that begins not less than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 30, 2000].”

§ 403. Basic allowance for housing

(a) GENERAL ENTITLEMENT.—(1) Except as otherwise provided by law, a member of a uniformed service who is entitled to basic pay is entitled to a basic allowance for housing at the monthly rates prescribed under this section or another provision of law with regard to the applicable component of the basic allowance for housing. The amount of the basic allowance for housing for a member will vary according to the

pay grade in which the member is assigned or distributed for basic pay purposes, the dependency status of the member, and the geographic location of the member. The basic allowance for housing may be paid in advance.

(2) A member of a uniformed service with dependents is not entitled to a basic allowance for housing as a member with dependents unless the member makes a certification to the Secretary concerned indicating the status of each dependent of the member. The certification shall be made in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

(b) BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe the rates of the basic allowance for housing that are applicable for the various military housing areas in the United States. The rates for an area shall be based on the costs of adequate housing determined for the area under paragraph (2).

(2) The Secretary of Defense shall determine the costs of adequate housing in a military housing area in the United States for all members of the uniformed services entitled to a basic allowance for housing in that area. The Secretary shall base the determination upon the costs of adequate housing for civilians with comparable income levels in the same area. After June 30, 2001, the Secretary may not differentiate between members with dependents in pay grades E-1 through E-4 in determining what constitutes adequate housing for members.

(3)(A) The monthly amount of the basic allowance for housing for an area of the United States for a member of a uniformed service shall be the amount equal to the difference between—

(i) the amount of the monthly cost of adequate housing in that area, as determined by the Secretary of Defense, for members of the uniformed services serving in the same pay grade and with the same dependency status as the member; and

(ii) the amount equal to a specified percentage (determined under subparagraph (B)) of the national average monthly cost of adequate housing in the United States, as determined by the Secretary, for members of the uniformed services serving in the same pay grade and with the same dependency status as the member.

(B) The percentage to be used for purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be determined by the Secretary of Defense and may not exceed the following:

(i) One percent for months occurring during 2015.

(ii) Two percent for months occurring during 2016.

(iii) Three percent for months occurring during 2017.

(iv) Four percent for months occurring during 2018.

(v) Five percent for months occurring after 2018.

(4) An adjustment in the rates of the basic allowance for housing under this subsection as a result of the Secretary’s redetermination of housing costs in an area shall take effect on the