



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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Informational Letter

Section 1

Transmittal:	19-INF-06
To:	Social Services District Commissioners
Issuing Division/Office:	Employment and Income Support Programs
Date:	November 14, 2019
Subject:	Social Security Administration (SSA) Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for January 2020 and Updated SSI and SSP Benefit Levels Chart
Suggested Distribution:	Local District Commissioners Temporary Assistance Directors SNAP and MA Directors WMS, SSI Maximization and Staff Development Coordinators
Contact Person(s):	SSI Questions – SSI State Supplement Bureau (518) 408-4757 TA Questions – Temporary Assistance Bureau (518) 474-9344 Systems Questions – Upstate Systems Bureau (518) 474-6055 Systems Questions – Downstate Systems Bureau (212) 961-8185
Attachments:	SSI and SSP Maximum Benefit Levels Chart Effective January 1, 2020
Attachment Available Online:	☒

Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
18-INF-15			Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2019		

Section 2

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Informational Letter is to inform local social services districts (districts) that the January 1, 2020 federal cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Title II Retirement, Survivors and Disability (RSDI) Social Security benefits and Title XVI Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits has been set at 1.6%. The updated SSI/SSP Benefit Levels Chart with an effective date of January 1, 2020 is attached.

II. Background

The Social Security Administration (SSA) adjusts RSDI and federal SSI benefits to reflect the increase in the cost of living. This COLA increase is based on the change in the Consumer Price

Index (CPI) for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) from the third quarter of the previous year to the third quarter of the current year.

III. Program Implications

This year, recipients of RSDI and SSI will have a COLA of 1.6% applied to benefits beginning in January 2020.

As authorized by Chapter 56 of the Laws of New York State of 2019, the full amount of the 2020 federal COLA will be passed along to all recipients of optional or mandatory SSI State supplementation.

Please note, the corresponding Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for persons in Congregate Care Levels 1, 2, and 3 has increased from the 2019 level. Residents of Congregate Care Level 1 facilities will see an increase in their PNA of \$2.00 dollars to \$150.00; Congregate Care Level 2 recipients will see their PNA increase \$3.00 to \$174.00; and the PNA for Congregate Care Level 3 recipients will increase \$3.00 to \$207.00. These increases are effective in January 2020.

The attached SSI and SSP Maximum Benefit Levels Chart for 2020 reflects the 1.6% federal COLA increase and the statutory change noted above. The chart is provided as a resource for informational purposes. The chart is also found on Centraport under Desk Guides and on the OTDA Intranet website. The increase in income that results from the COLA for Temporary Assistance (TA) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients will be addressed in upcoming releases.

Information on Medicare premiums can be found at: www.medicare.gov.

Issued By

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