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Informational Letter

Section 1

Transmittal:	06-INF-33
To:	Local District Commissioners
Issuing Division/Office:	Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance/Division of Employment and Transitional Supports
Date:	November 7, 2006
Subject:	Social Security Administration (SSA) Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for January 2007 – SSI Benefit Levels Chart
Suggested Distribution:	Local District Commissioners, TA, FS, & MA Directors, WMS, SSI Max, CAP & Staff Development Coordinators
Contact Person(s):	1-800-343-8859; FS Questions -- Food Stamp Bureau (518) 473-1469; SSI Questions -- SSI Bureau (518) 473-0332 ; TA Questions -- Temporary Assistance Bureau (518) 474-9344; WMS Questions -- WMS Bureau (518) 474-8749; Metro Region (212) 961-8207
Attachments:	SSI Benefit Levels Chart effective January 1, 2007
Attachment Available On – Line:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
05 INF-22 04 INF-22 03 INF-40 02 INF-35 01 INF-27 01 INF-15 97 ADM-1			Chapter 515 and Part C of Chap. 57 of the Laws of 2006 Chap. 25, Part C of Chap. 58 and Chap 713 of L. 2005		ABEL Transmittal 06-4 ABEL Transmittal 05-6 GIS 05 TA/DC042 ABEL Transmittal 04-4 GIS 00 TA/DC021 GIS 99 TA/DC021

I. Purpose

- To inform local districts that the January 1, 2007 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for RSDI (regular and disability Social Security benefits) and SSI has been set at 3.3%, and
- To provide local districts with the *SSI Benefit Levels Chart effective January 1, 2007*.

II. Background

Every year, the Social Security Administration (SSA) adjusts RSDI (Title II - regular Social Security) and federal SSI (Title XVI - Supplemental Security Income) benefits to reflect the increase in the cost of living. This increase is based on the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) between the third quarter of the current year and the third quarter of the previous year.

The January 1, 2007 COLA for RSDI and federal SSI benefits has been set at 3.3%. As authorized by Chapter 515 of the Laws of 2006, the full amount of the 2007 federal COLA will be passed along to all recipients of an optional or mandatory SSI State supplement.

In addition to receiving a pass-through of the federal COLA provided by Chapter 515, Part C of Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2006 established a COLA on the State share of the SSI benefit for recipients in Enhanced Residential Care – Congregate Care Level 3 facilities. Therefore, Level 3 residents will also receive an increase in the State supplement component of their monthly SSI grant.

As noted last year, Chapters 25, 58 and 713 of the Laws of 2005 reclassified *adult homes* and *enriched housing programs* from the Congregate Care Level 2 to the Congregate Care Level 3 category. Effective January 1, 2007, Chapter 58 also increased the State supplement component of the Level 3 rate and removed the current geographic distinctions so that there will be a single Statewide Level 3 rate starting on January 1, 2007.

The attached *SSI Benefit Levels for 2007* chart reflects the 3.3% federal COLA increase and all the statutory changes noted above. It is provided as a resource for informational purposes. The chart can also be viewed on CentraPort under Desk Guides and on the OTDA Intranet site within the Division of Employment and Transitional Supports under Desk Guides/Aids.

The increases in client income of Temporary Assistance and Food Stamp recipients will be addressed by the annual Mass Rebudgeting. See ABEL Transmittal 06-4 for more information about the annual Mass Rebudgeting.

Issued By _____

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