



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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Informational Letter

Section 1

Transmittal:	15-INF-10
To:	Local District Commissioners
Issuing Division/Office:	Center for Employment and Economic Supports
Date:	December 14, 2015
Subject:	Social Security Administration (SSA) Cost-of-Living (COLA) for January 2016 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 Benefit Levels Chart Effective January 1, 2016
Attachment Available Online:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
14-INF-12 13-INF-07 11-INF-23 09-INF-22 09-INF-14 08-INF-19 07-INF-16 06-INF-33 05-INF-22 04-INF-22 03-INF-40 02-INF-35 01-INF-27 01-INF-15 97-ADM-1			Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2015; Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2014; Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2013; Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2012; Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2011;		GIS 14 TA/WMS062 ABEL Transmittal 14-4

			Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2010; Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2009; Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2008; Chapter 132 of the laws of 2007; Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2006; Chapter 515 of the Laws of 2006; Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2005		
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Section 2

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Informational Letter is to inform local social services districts (SSDs) that there is no cost of living adjustment (COLA) for Title II Retirement, Survivors and Disability (RSDI) Social Security benefits and Title XVI Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for January 1, 2016. The updated SSI/SSP Benefit Levels Chart with an effective date of January 1, 2016 is attached.

II. Background

The Social Security Administration (SSA) adjusts RSDI and federal SSI benefits to reflect the increase in the cost of living. Any COLA increase is based on the change in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) from the third quarter of the last year a COLA was determined to the third quarter of the current year.

III. Program Implications

There was no increase in the CPI-W from the third quarter of 2014 (the last year a COLA was determined) to the third quarter of 2015, therefore, under existing law, there can be no COLA in 2016.

The attached SSI and SSP Benefit Levels Chart for 2016 reflects the 0% federal COLA. The chart 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 Center for Employment and Economic Supports under Desk Guides/Aids.

Due to the 0% COLA for Social Security and SSI income, there will NOT be a mass rebudgeting of federal benefit income of Temporary Assistance and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients.

The 2016 Medicare Part B Premium amount for 2016 will be \$104.90, the same as it was in 2015. Those individuals currently receiving Medicare who filed an individual tax return in 2014 with a yearly income of \$85,000 or less and couples who filed a joint tax return with a yearly income of \$170,000 or less will pay \$104.90 in 2016 for a Part B Premium. Those individuals who filed an individual tax return in 2014 with a yearly income above \$85,000 and up to \$107,000 or couples who filed a joint tax return with a yearly income above \$170,000 and up to \$214,000 will pay \$146.90 in 2016.

The following individuals will see the increase in their Medicare Part B Premiums in 2016:

- Those new to Part B in 2016;
- Those who don't get Social Security benefits;
- Those who get Medicare and Medicaid and Medicaid pays the premium; and
- Those individual whose income is above a certain amount.

For further information on Medicare premiums, please visit: www.medicare.gov.

Please note, the corresponding Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for persons in Congregate Care Levels 1, 2 and 3 remains unchanged from the 2015 levels.

Issued By:

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