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State Takeover of the SSI State Supplement Program (SSP)

Overview

- The Social Security Administration (SSA) currently administers the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program and, under contract with New York State (NYS), the State Supplement Program (SSP).
- The single monthly benefit received by most SSI recipients includes the federal SSI benefit and the state funded SSP benefit.
- Effective October 1, 2014, responsibility for the administration of the State Supplement Program will transfer from the Social Security Administration (SSA) to New York State (NYS).
- SSI recipients will receive 2 payments each month – one from SSA and one from NYS.

Benefit Amounts /Timing/Delivery

- Benefit amounts have not changed. SSP benefit amounts continue to be based on the recipient's State living arrangement category. There is no change to these categories. See "SSI Benefit Levels Chart."
- SSP payments will be received on or before the 1st of the month.
- The SSP payment will be received in the same way that the SSI Benefit is received – direct deposit or check.

Payees

- Payees for the SSI benefit will automatically become the payee for the SSP benefit. Recipients who receive both SSI and SSP benefits must make any payee changes through SSA.
- Effective October 1, 2014, SSP-only recipients may request a payee, or make changes to a payee, by contacting SSP.

Application/Eligibility Process

- The eligibility process begins with the filing of an application for SSI with SSA. There is no separate application process for SSP.
- Once SSA has made an eligibility determination, information is electronically transmitted to New York State. If the individual is eligible to receive SSI, in any amount, a maximum SSP benefit based on the State living arrangement, is provided.

- For individuals who are ineligible for SSI only due to income, a separate financial calculation will be conducted by New York State to determine if the income is less than the State standard. The State standard is the maximum benefit rate based on the living arrangement. Individuals found financially eligible will receive SSP-only benefits.
- Eligibility rules for SSI and SSP have not changed.

SSP Management

- SSP Customer Support is provided primarily through a toll free number, 1-855-488-0541, with calls answered Monday – Friday, 8:30 – 4:45. NYS will not operate any walk-in facilities or field offices for SSP. Email inquiries may be directed to: otda.sm.ssp@otda.ny.gov. Inquiries containing personally identifiable information should not be made through this email address.
- SSP Work Unit staff will respond to both SSA and recipient reported changes.
- Additional methods of communication are listed on the OTDA website.

Change Reporting

- SSI recipients should continue to report changes to SSA. NYS will receive this information daily from SSA through the electronic State Data Exchange (SDX).
- SSP-only recipients should continue to report changes to SSA through September 30, 2014. Beginning October 1, 2014, SSP-only recipients will report all changes to NYS.
- Congregate care facility operators are asked to report admissions and discharges to both SSA and NYS at the same time.

Awards Letters/Notices

- Recipients will receive award letters and other notices from both SSA and NYS. All NYS issued notices are provided in both English and Spanish and assistance in other languages is also available.
- Alternate format notices for blind and visually impaired recipients are also available from NYS. SSI recipients who receive alternate format notices from SSA will automatically receive notices in the same format from NYS. Other recipients may receive alternate format notices upon request to NYS. The available alternate formats are: large print, Braille, audio or data CD, registered mail, and readers.
- SSP Benefit verification information can be requested by calling the SSP Customer Support Center.

Appeals

- SSP recipients will be afforded appeal rights under NYS regulations through the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) Office of Administrative Hearings. SSP recipients have the option of telephone or in-person hearings.