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**OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE**  
40 NORTH PEARL STREET  
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**Brian J. Wing**  
Commissioner

## Informational Letter

### Section 1

<b>Transmittal:</b>	01 INF 27
<b>To:</b>	Local District Commissioners
<b>Issuing Division/Office:</b>	Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance/Division of Temporary Assistance
<b>Date:</b>	December 17, 2001
<b>Subject:</b>	SSA Cost of Living Adjustment for January 2002 - SSI Benefit Levels Chart
<b>Suggested Distribution:</b>	Local District Commissioners, TA, FS, & MA Directors, WMS, CAP & Staff Development Coordinators
<b>Contact Person(s):</b>	TA Team Rep. @ 1(800) 343-8859: Central Team (TA) 4-9344; Eastern Team (FS) 3-1469; Western Team (HEAP, SSI & IAR) 3-0332; or the Metro Team @ (212) 383-1655
<b>Attachments:</b>	SSI Benefit Levels Chart Effective January 1, 2002, Food Stamp Group Living Budget Data Chart
<b>Attachment Available On – Line:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
01 INF-15 97 ADM-1			Chapter 89 of Laws of 2001		GIS 00 TA/DC021 GIS 99 TA/DC021

### I. Purpose

- ❑ To inform local districts that the January 1, 2002 cost-of living adjustment (COLA) for RSDI (regular Social Security benefits) and SSI has been set at 2.6%; and
- ❑ To provide local districts with the **SSI Benefit Levels Chart effective January 1, 2002**; and
- ❑ To provide the new **Food Stamp Group Living Budget Data: Effective January 1, 2002** that traditionally was released as an annual GIS in the fall.

## **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, 2002 COLA for RSDI and federal SSI benefit has been set at 2.6%.

This INF replaces the annual GIS on this topic, which we released in previous years.

## **III. Program Implications**

The SSI Benefit Levels chart is provided as a resource for informational purposes. The increases in client income of TA and Food Stamp recipients will be addressed by the annual Mass Rebudgeting. Please refer to Abel Transmittal 01-6 for more information.

## **IV. Other Information**

### **Issued By**

**Name: Patricia A. Stevens**

**Title: Deputy Commissioner**

**Division/Office: Division of Temporary Assistance**