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Governor

NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE
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Brian J. Wing
Commissioner

Informational Letter

Section 1

Transmittal:	02 INF 35
To:	Local District Commissioners
Issuing Division/Office:	Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance/Division of Temporary Assistance
Date:	November 5, 2002
Subject:	SSA COLA for January 2003 - SSI and Food Stamp Charts
Suggested Distribution:	Local District Commissioners, TA, FS, & MA Directors, WMS, CAP & Staff Development Coordinators
Contact Person(s):	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
Attachments:	SSI Benefit Levels Chart effective January 1, 2003; and Food Stamp Group Living Budget Data Chart
Attachment Available On – Line:	<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-27 01 INF-15 97 ADM-1			Chapter 109 of Laws of 2002		GIS 00 TA/DC021 GIS 99 TA/DC021

I. Purpose

- ❑ To inform local districts that the January 1, 2003 cost-of living adjustment (COLA) for RSDI (regular and disability Social Security benefits) and SSI has been set at 1.4% and
- ❑ To provide local districts with the **SSI Benefit Levels Chart effective January 1, 2003** and
- ❑ To provide the new **Food Stamp Group Living Budget Data: Effective January 1, 2003** 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, 2003 COLA for RSDI and federal SSI benefit has been set at 1.4%.

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 02-6, dated October 28, 2002, for more information about the annual Mass Rebudgeting.

Issued by

**Patricia A. Stevens,
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Temporary Assistance**