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Governor

NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE
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Robert Doar
Acting Commissioner

Informational Letter

Section 1

Transmittal:	05-INF-22
To:	Local District Commissioners
Issuing Division/Office:	Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance/Division of Employment and Transitional Supports
Date:	November 9, 2005
Subject:	SSA COLA for January 2006 - SSI Benefit Levels Chart
Suggested Distribution:	Local District Commissioners, TA, FS, & MA Directors, WMS, 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, 2006
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.
04 INF-22 03 INF-40 02 INF-35 01 INF-27 01 INF-15 97 ADM-1			Chapter 713 of the Laws of 2005 Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2005		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, 2006 cost-of living adjustment (COLA) for RSDI (regular and disability Social Security benefits) and SSI has been set at 4.1%, and
- To provide local districts with the *SSI Benefit Levels Chart effective January 1, 2006*.

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, 2006 COLA for RSDI and federal SSI benefits has been set at 4.1%. As authorized by Chapter 713 of the Laws of 2005, the full amount of the 2006 federal COLA will be passed along to all recipients of an optional or mandatory SSI State supplement.

The attached *SSI Benefit Levels* chart reflects the 4.1% federal COLA increase and is provided as a resource for informational purposes.

In addition, Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2005 authorized moving Department of Health certified adult homes and enriched housing programs from Congregate Care Level 2 to a newly enhanced Congregate Care Level 3 category.

To address the impact of Chapter 58, GIS 05 TA/DC042 entitled "New Shelter Type '42' for New Congregate Care Level 3" was issued on October 27, 2005. This GIS informed Districts:

- that effective January 1, 2006, adult homes and enriched housing programs certified by the Department of Health will be reclassified from Congregate Care Level 2 to Congregate Care Level 3 facilities, and
- of the systems implications relating to this reclassification of adult homes and enriched housing programs.

The increases in client income of TA and Food Stamp recipients will be addressed by the annual Mass Rebudgeting. See ABEL Transmittal 05-6 for more information about the annual Mass Rebudgeting.

Issued By _____

Name: **Russell Sykes**

Title: **Deputy Commissioner**

Division/Office: **Division of Employment and Transitional Supports**

SSI Benefit Levels Chart effective January 1, 2006 (reflects the 4.1% federal COLA for January 2006)

Fed L/A Code	State Supp Code	New York State Living Arrangement	Individual			Couple		
			Federal	State	TOTAL ¹	Federal	State	TOTAL ¹
A	A	Living Alone	\$603	\$87	\$690	\$904	\$104	\$1,008
A, C (B)	B (F)	Living With Others (Living in the Household of Another) ²	603 (402)	23	626 (425)	904 (602.67)	46	950 (648.67)
A	C	Congregate Care Level 1 - Family Care <input type="checkbox"/> OCFS certified Family Type Homes <input type="checkbox"/> OMH or OMRDD certified Family Care Homes <i>NYC, Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester Counties</i>	603	266.48	869.48	904	834.96	1,738.96
		<i>Rest of State</i>	603	228.48	831.48	904	758.96	1,662.96
A	D	Congregate Care Level 2 - Residential Care <input type="checkbox"/> DOH certified Residences for Adults <input type="checkbox"/> OMH or OMRDD certified Community Residences, Individualized Residential Alternatives and OASAS certified Chemical Dependence Residential Services <i>NYC, Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester Counties</i>	603	435	1,038	904	1,172	2,076
		<i>Rest of State</i>	603	405	1,008	904	1,112	2,016
A	E	Congregate Care Level 3 - Enhanced Residential Care <input type="checkbox"/> DOH certified Adult Homes and Enriched Housing programs <input type="checkbox"/> OMRDD certified Schools for the Mentally Retarded <i>NYC, Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester Counties</i>	603	525	1,128	904	1,339	2,243
		<i>Rest of State</i>	603	510	1,113	904	1,309	2,213
D	Z	Title XIX (Medicaid certified) Institutions ³	30	0 ⁴	30 ⁴	60	0 ⁴	60 ⁴
A	Z	(see below) ⁵	603	0	603	904	0	904

Minimum Personal Needs Allowances

- Congregate Care Level 1 - \$116
- Congregate Care Level 2 - \$135
- Congregate Care Level 3 - \$150

Limits on Countable Resources

- Individuals \$2,000
- Couples \$3,000

Revised 17 Oct 2005

Statutory References: Chapters 58 and 713 of the Laws of 2005

¹ The combined federal and State SSI benefit provided to eligible individuals and eligible couples with no countable income.

² The *Living With Others* category includes recipients whose federal benefit has been reduced by the "value of the 1/3 reduction" (VTR) due to the federal determination that they are both: *a*) living in someone else's household, *and b*) receiving some amount of free or subsidized food and shelter (room and board).

³ Applies when an SSI recipient is residing in a medical facility, is not expected to return home within 90 days, and Medicaid is paying for at least 50% of the cost of care.

⁴ Recipients in nursing homes licensed by DOH receive an additional monthly grant of \$25 issued by OTDA called a State Supplemental Personal Needs Allowance (SSPNA). Residents of other medical facilities receive an SSPNA of \$5.

⁵ This zero State supplement applies: *a*) when an SSI recipient is residing in a private medical facility and Medicaid is paying for less than 50% of the cost of care, *or b*) when a recipient resides in certain publicly operated residential facilities serving 16 or fewer residents, *or c*) while a recipient resides in a public emergency shelter for 6 calendar months during a 9 month period.