



**NEW YORK STATE  
OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE**  
40 NORTH PEARL STREET  
ALBANY, NY 12243-0001

**David A. Paterson**  
*Governor*

**David A. Hansell**  
*Commissioner*

## Informational Letter

### Section 1

<b>Transmittal:</b>	08-INF-19
<b>To:</b>	Local District Commissioners
<b>Issuing Division/Office:</b>	Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance/Center for Employment and Economic Supports
<b>Date:</b>	November 20, 2008
<b>Subject:</b>	Social Security Administration (SSA) Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for January 2009 - SSI Benefit Levels Chart
<b>Suggested Distribution:</b>	Local District Commissioners TA, FS, & MA Directors WMS, SSI Max, CAP & Staff Development Coordinators
<b>Contact Person(s):</b>	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) 473-3468; Metro Region (212) 961-8207
<b>Attachments:</b>	SSI Benefit Levels Chart effective January 1, 2009
<b>Attachment Available On – Line:</b>	yes

### Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
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 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		ABEL Transmittal 08-3 ABEL Transmittal 07-3 ABEL Transmittal 06-4 ABEL Transmittal 05-6 GIS 05 TA/DC042 ABEL Transmittal 04-4 GIS 00 TA/DC021 GIS 99 TA/DC021

## Section 2

### I. Purpose

- To inform local districts that the January 1, 2009, cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for RSDI (Title II - regular and disability Social Security benefits) and SSI (Title XVI – Supplemental Security Income) has been set at 5.8%; and
- To provide local districts with the *SSI Benefit Levels Chart effective January 1, 2009*.

### II. Background

Every year, the Social Security Administration (SSA) adjusts RSDI and federal SSI 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, 2009, the COLA for RSDI and federal SSI benefits has been set at 5.8%. As authorized by Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2008, the full amount of the 2009 federal COLA will be passed along to all recipients of optional or mandatory SSI State supplementation.

In addition to receiving a pass-through of the federal COLA provided by Chapter 57, Part C of Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2006 established a COLA on the State share of the SSI benefit for recipients in Enhanced Residential Care – Congregate Care Level 3 facilities. Therefore, Level 3 residents will also receive an increase in the State supplement component of their monthly SSI grant.

Residents of Congregate Care facilities will also see an increase in their Personal Needs Allowances (PNAs).

The attached *SSI Benefit Levels for 2009* chart reflects the 5.8% federal COLA increase and the statutory changes noted above. It 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.

The increases in client income of Temporary Assistance and Food Stamp recipients will be addressed by the annual Mass Rebudgeting. (See ABEL Transmittal 08-3 for more information about the annual Mass Rebudgeting.)

#### Issued By

**Name:** Russell Sykes  
**Title:** Deputy Commissioner  
**Division/Office:** Center for Employment and Economic Supports