



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

**Informational Letter**

**Section 1**

<b>Transmittal:</b>	09-INF-22
<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 24, 2009
<b>Subject:</b>	Social Security Administration (SSA) Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for January 2010 - 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) 474-8749; Metro Region (212) 961-8207
<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">09-INF- SSI Benefit Levels Chart effective January 1, 2010</a>
<b>Attachment Available On – Line:</b>	X Yes

**Filing References**

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
08-INF-19 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 2009; 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 09-6 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 there is no cost of living adjustment (COLA) for RSDI (Title II - regular and disability Social Security benefits) and SSI (Title XVI – Supplemental Security Income) for January 1, 2010.
- To provide local districts with the *SSI Benefit Levels Chart effective January 1, 2010*.

### 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. This year there was no increase in the CPI from the third quarter of 2008 to the third quarter of 2009. With consumer prices down over the past year, monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits will not automatically increase in 2010. Since there is no COLA, the statute prohibits an increase in the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax as well as the retirement earnings test exempt amounts. These amounts will remain unchanged in 2010.

The attached *SSI Benefit Levels for 2010* chart reflects the 0% federal COLA. 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.

Due to the 0% COLA for Social Security and SSI income, there will NOT be a mass rebudgeting of federal benefit income of Temporary Assistance and Food Stamp recipients.

The Medicare Part B basic premium will remain at \$96.40 per month for beneficiaries who were enrolled and had the premium deducted from their Social Security payment prior to January 1, 2010, and whose annual income is not above \$85,000 for a single person or \$170,000 for a married couple. Beneficiaries who first enroll in Medicare Part B in 2010, and Part B enrollees who do not have their Part B premium deducted from their Social Security payment (e.g., their premium is paid for them by Medicaid or Medicare Buy-In), will be charged \$110.50 per month. Food Stamp applicants and recipients who incur unreimbursed out-of-pocket costs for Medicare Part B premiums must have the actual monthly cost allowed as a Food Stamp medical deduction.

#### Issued By

**Name:**

**Russell Sykes**

**Title:**

**Deputy Commissioner**

**Division/Office:**

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