



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

Informational Letter

Section 1

Transmittal:	10-INF-23
To:	Local District Commissioners
Issuing Division/Office:	Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance/Center for Employment and Economic Supports
Date:	December 8, 2010
Subject:	Social Security Administration (SSA) Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for January 2011 - SSI Benefit Levels Chart
Suggested Distribution:	Local District Commissioners, TA, FS, & MA Directors, WMS, SSI Max, 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; Systems Questions -- Upstate Systems Bureau (518) 473-7991; Downstate WMS (212) 961-8185
Attachments:	SSI Benefit Levels Chart effective January 1, 2011
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.
09-INF-22 09-INF-14 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		18 NYCRR 352.8(c)(1)(ii)	Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2010; 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 08-3 ABEL Transmittal 07-3 ABEL Transmittal 06-4 ABEL Transmittal 05-6 ABEL Transmittal 04-4 GIS 09 TA/WMS036 GIS 05 TA/DC042 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, 2011.
- To provide local districts with the *SSI Benefit Levels Chart effective January 1, 2011*.

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 for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) from the third quarter of the last year a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was determined to the third quarter of the current year. This year there was no increase in the CPI-W from the third quarter of 2008, the last year a COLA was determined, to the third quarter of 2010, therefore, under existing law, there can be no COLA in 2011. 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 2011.

The attached *SSI Benefit Levels for 2011* 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.

Most beneficiaries will continue to pay the same \$96.40 or \$110.50 Medicare Part B basic premium amount per month in 2011. 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 will continue to pay \$96.40. Beneficiaries who first enrolled in Medicare Part B in 2010, and meet the same criteria and income guidelines stated will continue to pay \$110.50.

New Part B beneficiaries and 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 \$115.40 per month in 2011. The Medicare Part B premium is increasing in 2011 due to possible increases in Part B costs. 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.

Please note, the corresponding Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for persons in Congregate Care Levels 1, 2 and 3 again remains unchanged from the 2010 levels. Therefore, in accordance with 18 NYCRR Section 352.8(c)(1)(ii), the amount of PNA received by individuals who are eligible for temporary assistance, and who reside in these types of living arrangements, remains unchanged for 2011.

Issued By

Name:

Russell Sykes

Title:

Deputy Commissioner

Division/Office:

Center for Employment and Economic Supports