



NEW YORK STATE  
 OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE  
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 ALBANY, NEW YORK 12243-0001

Andrew M. Cuomo  
 Governor

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 Commissioner

**Informational Letter**

**Section 1**

<b>Transmittal:</b>	14-INF-12
<b>To:</b>	Local District Commissioners
<b>Issuing Division/Office :</b>	Center for Employment and Economic Supports
<b>Date:</b>	November 18, 2014
<b>Subject:</b>	Social Security Administration (SSA) Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for January 2015 and updated SSI and SSP Benefit Levels Chart.
<b>Suggested Distribution:</b>	Local District Commissioners Temporary Assistance Directors SNAP and MA Directors WMS, SSI Maximization and Staff Development Coordinators
<b>Contact Person(s):</b>	SSI Questions - SSI State Supplement Bureau (518) 408-4757; TA Questions - Temporary Assistance Bureau (518) 474-9344; Systems Questions - Upstate Systems Bureau (518) 474-6055; Downstate WMS (212) 961-8185
<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">SSI and SSP Benefit Levels Chart Effective January 1, 2015</a>
<b>Attachment Available On – Line:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Filing References**

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
13-INF-07 12-INF-17 11-INF-23 09-INF-22 09-INF-14 08-INF-19 07-INF-16 06-INF-33 05-INF-22 04-INF-22			Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2014; Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2013; Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2012; Chapter 58		GIS 14 TA/WMS062 ABEL Transmittal 14-4

03-INF-40 02-INF-35 01-INF-27 01-INF-15 97-ADM-1			of the Laws of 2011; 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		
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## Section 2

### I. Purpose

The purpose of this Informational Letter is to inform social services districts (SSDs) that the January 1, 2015, federal cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Title II Social Security Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI) benefits and for Title XVI Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits has been set at 1.7%. The updated SSI and SSP Benefit Levels Chart, with an effective date of January 1, 2015 is attached.

### II. Background

The Social Security Administration (SSA) adjusts RSDI and federal SSI benefits to reflect the increase in the cost of living. This cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increase is based on the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) from the third quarter of the previous year to the third quarter of the current year.

### III. Program Implications

This year, there was an increase in the CPI-W from the third quarter of 2013 (the last year a COLA was determined) to the third quarter of 2014. As a result of this CPI-W increase, recipients of RSDI and SSI will have a COLA applied to benefits beginning in January 2015.

The 2015 COLA for RSDI and federal SSI benefits has been set at 1.7%. As authorized by Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2014, the full amount of the 2015 federal COLA will be passed along to all recipients of optional or mandatory SSI State supplementation. Residents of Congregate Care facilities will also see an increase in their Personal Needs Allowance (PNA).

The attached SSI and SSP Benefit Levels Chart for 2015 reflect the 1.7% federal COLA increase and the statutory change noted above. The chart 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 in the Center for Employment and Economic Supports section under Desk Guides/Aids. The increase in RSDI or SSI income for Temporary Assistance (TA) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients will be addressed by the annual Mass Rebudgeting scheduled as follows: initial phase runs on November 8; final phase runs on November 15 and CNS letters will be produced November 17. Updated ABEL calculations will be available beginning November 9, 2014.

The 2015 Medicare Part B Premium amount will be \$104.90, the same as it was in 2014. Those individuals who filed an individual tax return in 2013 with a yearly income of \$85,000 or less and couples who filed a joint tax return with a yearly income of \$170,000 or less will pay \$104.90 in 2015 for a Part B premium. Those individuals who filed an individual tax return in 2013 with a yearly income above \$85,000 and up to \$107,000 or couples who filed a joint tax return with a yearly income above \$170,000 and up to \$214,000 will pay \$146.90 in 2015.

**Issued By**

**Name: Phyllis Morris**

**Title: Deputy Commissioner**

**Division/Office: Center for Employment and Economic Supports**