



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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Informational Letter

Section 1

Transmittal:	20-INF-12
To:	Social Services District Commissioners
Issuing Division/Office:	Employment and Income Support Programs
Date:	November 6, 2020
Subject:	2021 Federal Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) and 2021 SSI and SSP Maximum Monthly Benefit Levels Chart
Suggested Distribution:	Local District Commissioners Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance (TA), and Medicaid (MA) Directors Systems, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Maximization and Staff Development Coordinators
Contact Person(s):	SSI Questions - State Supplement Program (SSP) (518) 408-4757 TA Questions - TA Bureau (518) 474-9344 SNAP Questions - SNAP Bureau (518) 473-1469 Systems Questions: - Upstate Systems Bureau otda.sm.eisp_upstatesystems@otda.ny.gov - Downstate Systems Bureau (212) 961-8185
Attachments:	Attachment 1 - 2021 SSI and SSP Maximum Monthly Benefit Levels Chart

Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
19-INF-06			Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2020		

Section 2

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Informational Letter is to inform local social services districts (districts) that the January 1, 2021 federal cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Title II Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI) Social Security benefits and Title XVI Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits has been set at 1.3%. The 2021 SSI and SSP Maximum Monthly Benefit Levels Chart with an effective date of January 1, 2021 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 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, recipients of RSDI and SSI will have a COLA of 1.3% applied to benefits beginning in January 2021.

As authorized by Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2020, the full amount of the 2021 federal COLA will be passed along to all recipients of optional or mandatory SSI State supplementation.

Please note, the corresponding monthly Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for persons in Congregate Care Levels 1, 2, and 3 have increased from their 2020 levels. Residents of Congregate Level 1 facilities will see an increase in their PNA of \$2.00 to \$152.00. Congregate Care Level 2 recipients will see their PNA increase \$2.00 to \$176.00 and the PNA for Congregate Care Level 3 recipients will increase \$3.00 to \$210.00. These increases are effective in January 2021.

The attached 2021 SSI and SSP Maximum Monthly Benefit Levels Chart reflects the 1.3% federal COLA increase and the statutory change noted above. The chart is provided as a resource for informational purposes. The chart is also found on Centraport under Desk Guides and on the OTDA Intranet website. The increase in income that results from the COLA for Temporary Assistance (TA) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients will be addressed in upcoming releases.

Information on Medicare premiums can be found at: www.medicare.gov.

Issued By:

Name: Jeffrey Gaskell

Title: Deputy Commissioner

Division/Office: Employment and Income Support Programs / Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance