



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	21 TA/DC008 Upstate and New York City
Date:	February 12, 2021
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, TA, SNAP and HEAP Directors, WMS Coordinators
From:	Jeffrey Gaskell, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	2021 SSI COLA NYSNIP Standard Benefit Amount Adjustments
Effective Date:	January 1, 2021
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Section 2

Background

The Social Security Administration (SSA) annually evaluates the *Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers* (CPI-W) data to determine if a cost of living adjustment (COLA) should be made to RSDI (regular Social Security and Social Security Disability benefits) and federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits to reflect an increase or decrease in the cost of living. Historically, when COLA adjustments have been required, the adjustments take place effective January 1st of each year.

Effective January 1, 2021, RSDI and SSI recipients will receive a 1.3% COLA increase. SSA and SSI benefits will be increased accordingly.

[20-INF-12](#), dated November 6, 2020, announced the COLA increase to SSI benefits.

Purpose

The purpose of this GIS is to inform social services districts (districts) about the effect of the annual Social Security COLA on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, and, particularly, on the benefits of SNAP recipients participating in the New York State Nutrition Improvement Project (NYSNIP) benefits.

Program Implications

As part of the 2020 January COLA mass re-budgeting/authorization (MRB/A), in response to the 1.3% increase in RSDI and SSI benefits, SNAP benefit levels for affected SNAP households will be adjusted effective January 1, 2021.

As a result of the 2021 Coronavirus Response and Relief Act the thrifty food plan amounts have been increased by 15%. As a result, the NYSNIP amounts will also be increased in addition to the 2021 COLA. The higher amounts will return to these levels on July 1st, 2021. Details of the increase can be found in [GIS 21 TA/DC004](#).

Upstate Districts

Information regarding the WMS MRB/A of Temporary Assistance and SNAP benefit levels for Upstate WMS was provided in ABEL Transmittal 20-4, dated November 12, 2020. Affected households received a CNS notice informing them of any change in benefit.

New York City

Information regarding the WMS MRB/A of Temporary Assistance and SNAP benefit levels for New York City WMS will be provided in a separate WLM. Information **regarding the SSI COLA and details on its effect on SNAP and SNAP case processing will also be provided to New York City Department of Social Services/Human Resources Administration (HRA) workers in an HRA Policy Directive.**

Samples of notice letters sent to affected households will be attached to these HRA directives. The new NYSNIP SNAP benefit amounts (see table of NYSNIP Benefit Levels effective 01/01/21 below) are effective for any **NYSNIP SNAP Shelter Type** budgets with a **FROM Date** of January 1, 2021 or later.

\$264 New NYSNIP “High” Shelter Cost Threshold

New NYSNIP households having cases opened, and existing NYSNIP households recertified, effective January 1, 2021, or later and having shelter costs **greater than \$264** will be “High Shelter” (Shelter Type 94 or 96) cases determined by the standard of the project. Conversely, effective January 1, 2020, **new** and recertifying NYSNIP households having shelter costs of **\$264 or less** will be “Low Shelter” (Shelter Type 95 or 97) cases determined by the standard of the project. This change to the shelter threshold was migrated on November 18, 2019 for budgets having a **FROM Date** of January 1, 2021 or later. Shelter Types 94, 95, 96 and 97 are affected by the SSI COLA increase.

NYSNIP BENEFITS MATRIX BY SHELTER TYPES

01/01/21 - 09/30/21 (temporary 15% benefit increase amounts are in parentheses)

HOUSEHOLD		MONTHLY SNAP BENEFIT AMOUNT		
		New York City	Nassau/Suffolk	Upstate
Shelter Type 94 (High Shelter/SUA)	SSI Only	\$204 (\$234)	\$204 (\$234)	\$202 (\$232)
	Other Income	\$204 (\$234)	\$204 (\$234)	\$193 (\$223)
Shelter Type 95 (Low Shelter/SUA)	SSI Only	\$202 (\$232)	\$185 (\$215)	\$160 (\$190)
	Other Income	\$193 (\$223)	\$176 (\$206)	\$151 (\$181)
Shelter Type 96 (High Shelter/ SUA/\$21 HEAP)	SSI Only	\$204 (\$234)	\$204 (\$234)	\$202 (\$232)
	Other Income	\$204 (\$234)	\$204 (\$234)	\$193 (\$223)
Shelter Type 96 (No SUA)	SSI Only	\$16 (\$19)	\$16 (\$19)	\$16 (\$19)
	Other Income	\$16 (\$19)	\$16 (\$19)	\$16 (\$19)
Shelter Type 97 (Low Shelter/ SUA/\$21 HEAP)	SSI Only	\$202 (\$232)	\$185 (\$215)	\$160 (\$190)
	Other Income	\$193 (\$223)	\$176 (\$206)	\$151 (\$181)
Shelter Type 97 (No SUA)	SSI Only	\$16 (\$19)	\$16 (\$19)	\$16 (\$19)
	Other Income	\$16 (\$19)	\$16 (\$19)	\$16 (\$19)
Shelter Type 98 (No Shelter or SUA Data)	SSI Only	\$16 (\$19)	\$16 (\$19)	\$16 (\$19)
	Other Income	\$16 (\$19)	\$16 (\$19)	\$16 (\$19)