



# Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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## General Information System (GIS) Message

### Section 1

<b>Transmittal:</b>	22 TA/DC012 Upstate and New York City
<b>Date:</b>	January 31, 2022
<b>To:</b>	Subscribers
<b>Suggested Distribution:</b>	Commissioners, TA, SNAP and HEAP Directors, WMS Coordinators
<b>From:</b>	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
<b>Subject:</b>	2022 SSI COLA NYSNIP Standard Benefit Amount Adjustments
<b>Effective Date:</b>	January 1, 2022
<b>Contact Information:</b>	SNAP Bureau at: (518) 473-1469

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Effective January 1, 2022, RSDI and SSI recipients will receive a 5.9% COLA increase. SSA and SSI benefits will be increased accordingly.

[21-INF-09](#), dated November 12, 2021, 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. As announced in [21 TA/DC080](#), the New York State Combined Application Project (NYSCAP), which uses standard SNAP budgeting methodology to determine participating households' benefit amounts instead of using standardized benefit amounts, replaced NYSNIP effective December 1, 2021. However, NYSNIP and NYSCAP will run concurrently for at least two years, until all existing NYSNIP cases have been converted to NYSCAP. Therefore, the NYSNIP standard benefit amounts will continue to be updated until NYSNIP is completely phased out.

## Program Implications

As part of the 2022 January COLA mass re-budgeting/authorization (MRB/A), in response to the 5.9% increase in RSDI and SSI benefits, SNAP benefit levels for affected SNAP households will be adjusted effective January 1, 2022.

### Upstate Districts

Information regarding the WMS MRB/A of Temporary Assistance and SNAP benefit levels for Upstate WMS was provided in ABEL Transmittal 21-8, dated December 2, 2021. 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 01/01/22 below) are effective for any **NYSNIP SNAP Shelter Type** budgets with a **FROM Date** of January 1, 2022 or later.

### \$278 New NYSNIP “High” Shelter Cost Threshold

**Effective January 1, 2022**, NYSNIP households with cases opened or recertified prior to December 1, 2021, and having shelter costs **greater than \$278** will be “High Shelter” (Shelter Type 94 or 96) cases determined by the standard of the project. Conversely, effective January 1, 2022, NYSNIP households with cases opened or recertified prior to December 1, 2021, and having shelter costs of **\$278 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 14, 2021 for budgets having a **FROM Date** of January 1, 2022, or later. Shelter Types 94, 95, 96 and 97 are affected by the SSI COLA increase.

### NYSNIP BENEFITS MATRIX BY SHELTER TYPES 01/01/22 - 09/30/22

HOUSEHOLD		MONTHLY SNAP BENEFIT AMOUNT		
		New York City	Nassau/Suffolk	Upstate
Shelter Type 94 (High Shelter/SUA)	SSI Only	\$250	\$250	\$244
	Other Income	\$250	\$250	\$235
Shelter Type 95 (Low Shelter/SUA)	SSI Only	\$250	\$233	\$206
	Other Income	\$242	\$224	\$197
Shelter Type 96 (High Shelter/ SUA/\$21 HEAP)	SSI Only	\$250	\$250	\$244
	Other Income	\$250	\$250	\$235
Shelter Type 96 (No SUA)	SSI Only	\$43	\$43	\$43
	Other Income	\$34	\$34	\$34
Shelter Type 97 (Low Shelter/ SUA/\$21 HEAP)	SSI Only	\$250	\$233	\$206
	Other Income	\$242	\$224	\$197
Shelter Type 97 (No SUA)	SSI Only	\$24	\$24	\$24
	Other Income	\$20	\$20	\$20
Shelter Type 98 (No Shelter or SUA Data)	SSI Only	\$24	\$24	\$24
	Other Income	\$20	\$20	\$20