



## General Information System (GIS) Message

### Section 1

<b>Transmittal:</b>	23DC087 Upstate and New York City
<b>Date:</b>	December 19, 2023
<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>	2024 SSI COLA NYSNIP Standard Benefit Amount Adjustments
<b>Effective Date:</b>	January 1, 2024
<b>Contact Information:</b>	SNAP Bureau at: (518) 473-1469 or <a href="mailto:SNAPBureau@otda.ny.gov">SNAPBureau@otda.ny.gov</a>

### 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 Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI) Social Security benefits and federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits to reflect an increase or decrease in the cost of living. Historically, when adjustments are required as a result of the federal COLA, the adjustments take place effective January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Effective January 1, 2024, RSDI and SSI recipients will receive a 3.2% COLA increase. SSA and SSI benefits will be increased accordingly.

[23-INF-05](#), dated November 21, 2023, 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 any remaining New York State Nutrition Improvement Project (NYSNIP) cases.

As stated in [21 TA/DC080](#) and [22 TA/DC012](#), 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. Districts were informed that all existing NYSNIP cases had to be manually re-budgeted and converted to NYSCAP within two years of December 1, 2021, and that NYSNIP cases could be converted any time a worker had contact with a NYSNIP case, but no later than the next interim contact or recertification, whichever contact point was earlier. This means that there was an expectation for

NYSNIP to be completely phased out by December 1, 2023. Although most NYSNIP cases have been converted to NYSCAP, there are still some existing NYSNIP cases. OTDA recognizes the challenges that districts have faced following the public health emergency and continue to face due to staffing shortages and program changes; however, all NYSNIP cases must still be converted to NYSCAP in accordance with the federally approved waiver. The Automated Budgeting and Eligibility Logic (ABEL) system will no longer support NYSNIP shelter types 94-97 effective December 1, 2024. Additional guidance regarding the end of NYSNIP will be issued separately.

### Program Implications

As part of the 2024 January COLA mass re-budgeting/authorization (MRB/A), in response to the 3.2% increase in RSDI and SSI benefits, SNAP benefit levels for affected SNAP households will be adjusted effective January 1, 2024.

### Upstate Districts

Information regarding the WMS MRB/A of Temporary Assistance and SNAP benefit levels for Upstate WMS was provided in [ABEL Transmittal 23-4](#), dated November 10, 2023. Affected households will receive a CNS notice informing them of any change in benefit amounts.

### 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 below) are effective for any **NYSNIP SNAP Shelter Type** budgets with a **FROM Date** of January 1, 2024 or later.

### \$309 New NYSNIP “High” Shelter Cost Threshold

Effective January 1, 2024, any remaining NYSNIP households having shelter costs **greater than \$309**, will be “High Shelter” (Shelter Type 94 or 96) cases determined by the standard of the project. Conversely, effective January 1, 2024, any remaining NYSNIP households having shelter costs of **\$309 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 12, 2023 for budgets having a **FROM Date** of January 1, 2024 or later.

### NYSNIP BENEFITS MATRIX BY SHELTER TYPES

*Effective 1/1/2024*

HOUSEHOLD		MONTHLY SNAP BENEFIT AMOUNT		
		New York City	Nassau/Suffolk	Upstate
Shelter Type 94 (High Shelter/SUA)	SSI Only	\$291	\$291	\$284
	Other Income	\$291	\$291	\$275
Shelter Type 95 (Low Shelter/SUA)	SSI Only	\$291	\$286	\$255
	Other Income	\$291	\$277	\$246
Shelter Type 96 (High Shelter/SUA/\$21 HEAP)	SSI Only	\$291	\$291	\$284
	Other Income	\$291	\$291	\$275
Shelter Type 96 (High Shelter/No SUA)	SSI Only	\$47	\$47	\$47
	Other Income	\$38	\$38	\$38

HOUSEHOLD		MONTHLY SNAP BENEFIT AMOUNT		
		New York City	Nassau/Suffolk	Upstate
Shelter Type 97 (Low Shelter/SUA/\$21 HEAP)	SSI Only	\$291	\$286	\$255
	Other Income	\$291	\$277	\$246
Shelter Type 97 (Low Shelter/No SUA)	SSI Only	\$41	\$41	\$41
	Other Income	\$35	\$35	\$35
Shelter Type 98 (No Shelter or SUA Data)	SSI Only	\$41	\$41	\$41
	Other Income	\$35	\$35	\$35