



**George E. Pataki**  
Governor

**NEW YORK STATE**  
**OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE**  
40 NORTH PEARL STREET  
ALBANY, NY 12243-0001

**Robert Doar**  
Acting Commissioner

## Informational Letter

### Section 1

<b>Transmittal:</b>	03 INF 40
<b>To:</b>	Local District Commissioners
<b>Issuing Division/Office:</b>	Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance/Division of Temporary Assistance
<b>Date:</b>	October 31, 2003
<b>Subject:</b>	SSA COLA for January 2004 - SSI and Food Stamp Charts
<b>Suggested Distribution:</b>	Local District Commissioners, TA, FS, & MA Directors, WMS, CAP & Staff Development Coordinators
<b>Contact Person(s):</b>	TA Team Rep. @ 1(800) 343-8859: Central Team (TA) 4-9344; Eastern Team (FS) 3-1469; Western Team (HEAP, SSI & IAR) 3-0332; or the Metro Team @ (212) 383-1655
<b>Attachments:</b>	SSI Benefit Levels Chart effective January 1, 2004, and Food Stamp Group Living Budget Data Chart
<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.
02 INF-35 01 INF-27 01 INF-15 97 ADM-1			Chapter 62 of Laws of 2003		GIS 00 TA/DC021GIS 99 TA/DC021

### Section 2

#### I. Purpose

- ❑ To inform local districts that the January 1, 2004 cost-of living adjustment (COLA) for RSDI (regular and disability Social Security benefits) and SSI has been set at 2.1%, and
- ❑ To provide local districts with the *SSI Benefit Levels Chart effective January 1, 2004*, and
- ❑ To provide the new *Food Stamp Group Living Budget Data: Effective January 1, 2004* chart.

## **II. Background**

Every year, the Social Security Administration (SSA) adjusts RSDI (Title II - regular Social Security) and federal SSI (Title XVI - Supplemental Security Income) benefits to reflect the increase in the cost of living. This increase is based on the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) between the third quarter of the current year and the third quarter of the previous year.

The January 1, 2004 COLA for RSDI and federal SSI benefits has been set at 2.1%.

The *SSI Benefit Levels* chart is provided as a resource for informational purposes.

The increases in client income of TA and Food Stamp recipients will be addressed by the annual Mass Rebudgeting. A forthcoming ABEL Transmittal will provide more information about the annual Mass Rebudgeting.

### **Issued By:**

**Patricia A. Stevens,  
Deputy Commissioner  
Division of Temporary Assistance**