



George E. Pataki  
Governor

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

Robert Doar  
Commissioner

## Informational Letter

### Section 1

<b>Transmittal:</b>	04-INF-22
<b>To:</b>	Local District Commissioners
<b>Issuing Division/Office:</b>	Division of Temporary Assistance
<b>Date:</b>	November 8, 2004
<b>Subject:</b>	SSA COLA for January 2005 - 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>	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, 2005, and Food Stamp Group Living Budget Data Chart for New York City
<b>Attachment Available On – Line:</b>	X

### Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
03 INF-40 02 INF-35 01 INF-27 01 INF-15 97 ADM-1			Chapter 310 of Laws of 2004		ABEL Transmittal 04-4 GIS 00 TA/DC021GIS 99 TA/DC021

### I. Purpose

- ❑ To inform local districts that the January 1, 2005 cost-of living adjustment (COLA) for RSDI (regular and disability Social Security benefits) and SSI has been set at 2.7%, and
- ❑ To provide local districts with the *SSI Benefit Levels Chart effective January 1, 2005*, and
- ❑ To provide the new *Food Stamp Group Living Budget Data: Effective January 1, 2005* chart for New York City.

## **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, 2005 COLA for RSDI and federal SSI benefits has been set at 2.7%.

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. See ABEL Transmittal 04-4 for more information about the annual Mass Rebudgeting.

**Issued By:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Russell Sykes</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Deputy Commissioner</b>
<b>Division/Office</b>	<b>Division of Temporary Assistance</b>

## SSI Benefit Levels Chart effective January 1, 2005 (reflects the 2.7% federal COLA for January 2005)

Fed L/A Code	State Supp Code	New York State Living Arrangement	Individual			Couple		
			Federal	State	TOTAL <sup>1</sup>	Federal	State	TOTAL <sup>1</sup>
<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Living Alone</b>	\$579	\$87	<b>\$666</b>	\$869	\$104	<b>\$973</b>
<b>A, C</b> (B)	<b>B</b> (F)	<b>Living With Others</b> (Living in the Household of Another) <sup>2</sup>	579 (386)	23	<b>602</b> (409)	869 (579.34)	46	<b>915</b> (625.34)
<b>A</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Congregate Care Level 1 - <i>Family Care</i></b> <input type="checkbox"/> OCFS certified Family Type Homes <input type="checkbox"/> OMH or OMRDD certified Family Care Homes <i>NYC, Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester Counties</i>	579	266.48	<b>845.48</b>	869	821.96	<b>1,690.96</b>
		<i>Rest of State</i>	579	228.48	<b>807.48</b>	869	745.96	<b>1,614.96</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>Congregate Care Level 2 - <i>Residential Care</i></b> <input type="checkbox"/> DOH certified Adult Care Facilities <input type="checkbox"/> OMH, OMRDD, or OASAS certified Community Residences, Individualized Residential Alternatives, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Programs <i>NYC, Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester Counties</i>	579	435	<b>1,014</b>	869	1,159	<b>2,028</b>
		<i>Rest of State</i>	579	405	<b>984</b>	869	1,099	<b>1,968</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>Congregate Care Level 3 - <i>School for the Mentally Retarded</i></b> <i>New York City</i>	579	482.96	<b>1,061.96</b>	869	1,254.92	<b>2,123.92</b>
		<i>Rest of State</i>	579	458.96	<b>1,037.96</b>	869	1,206.92	<b>2,075.92</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Z</b>	<b>Title XIX (Medicaid certified) Institutions <sup>3</sup></b>	30	0 <sup>4</sup>	<b>30 <sup>4</sup></b>	60	0 <sup>4</sup>	<b>60 <sup>4</sup></b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Z</b>	(see below) <sup>5</sup>	579	0	<b>579</b>	869	0	<b>869</b>

<b>Minimum Personal Needs Allowances</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Congregate Care Level 1 - \$111 <input type="checkbox"/> Congregate Care Level 2 - \$130 <input type="checkbox"/> Congregate Care Level 3 - \$89			<b>Limits on Countable Resources</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals \$2,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Couples \$3,000		Revised 19 Oct 2004
					Statutory Reference: Chapter 310 of the Laws of 2004

- <sup>1</sup> The combined federal and State SSI benefit provided to eligible individuals and eligible couples with no countable income.
- <sup>2</sup> The *Living With Others* category includes recipients whose federal benefit has been reduced by the "value of the 1/3 reduction" (VTR) due to the federal determination that they are both:  
*a)* living in someone else's household, *and b)* receiving some amount of free or subsidized food and shelter (room and board).
- <sup>3</sup> Applies when an SSI recipient is residing in a medical facility, is not expected to return home within 90 days, and Medicaid is paying for at least 50% of the cost of care.
- <sup>4</sup> Recipients in nursing homes licensed by DOH receive an additional monthly grant of \$25 issued by OTDA called a State Supplemental Personal Needs Allowance (SSPNA). Residents of other medical facilities receive an SSPNA of \$5.
- <sup>5</sup> This zero State supplement applies: *a)* when an SSI recipient is residing in a private medical facility and Medicaid is paying for less than 50% of the cost of care, *or b)* when a recipient resides in certain publicly operated residential facilities serving 16 or fewer residents, *or c)* while a recipient resides in a public emergency shelter for 6 calendar months during a 9 month period.

FOOD STAMPS				
GROUP LIVING BUDGET DATA: EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2005				
(Applicable for SSI/RSDI Recipients Only in NYC)				
Living Arrangement	New York City WMS External Budget Shelter Type Code			SSI Benefit
SSI Living with Others Benefit	N/A			\$602.00
<b>Level I - Family Care</b> OMH/OMRDD Certified Family Care Homes				
NYC, Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland & Westchester	15			\$845.48
Rest of State	28			\$807.48
<b>Level II - Residential Care</b> OMH/OMRDD Certified Facility Or DSS Certified Enriched Housing				
NYC, Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland & Westchester	16, 31			\$1,014.00
Rest of State	29,32			\$984.00
State (OMH/OMRDD) Operated Community Residences	17			\$579.00
The following monthly allowances and costs pertain to eligible residents of group living arrangements.				
	Minimum Personal Needs Allowance*	Personal Care Costs (Income Exclusion)	Shelter Costs*	Board* (Thrifty) Food Plan)
Level I - NYC, Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland and Westchester	\$111.00	\$243.48	\$342.00	\$149.00
Level I - Rest of State	\$111.00	\$205.48	\$342.00	\$149.00
Level II - NYC, Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland and Westchester OMH/OMRDD Certified Facility or DSS Certified Enriched Housing	\$130.00	\$412.00	\$323.00	\$149.00
Level II - Rest of State OMH/OMRDD Certified Facility or DSS Certified Enriched Housing	\$130.00	\$382.00	\$323.00	\$149.00
State (OMH/OMRDD) Operated Community Residences	\$130.00	\$0	\$300.00	\$149.00
The payment to the Group Home equals the personal care costs + shelter + board. The client keeps the personal needs allowance + they may keep part of their unearned or earned income.				
*Personal needs and/or board amounts may be higher at some residences. If so, shelter costs are reduced by the amount of the difference between the minimum above and the actual amount allowed. Total SSI benefits and Personal Care Costs are not changed.				
<b>NOTE:</b> The budget data and procedures above apply to residents receiving RSDI/SSI or to disabled residents not receiving RSDI/SSI or TA. Other budget data and procedures apply to residents who can participate and who are not receiving RSDI/SSI but who are receiving PA. No special procedures apply for residents who can participate and who do not receive TA or RSDI/SSI.				