

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

40 NORTH PEARL STREET, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12243

Carmen Shang
Acting Commissioner



[An Informational Letter informs local districts of potential developments in the Social Services field, and actual or potential developments in collateral fields of interest.]

INFORMATIONAL LETTER

TRANSMITTAL NO.: 77 INF-15
[Income Maintenance]
DATE: September 1, 1977

TO: Commissioners of Social Services

SUBJECT: Pass-Through of the Federal Cost-of-Living Increase to SSI Recipients and Increases in State Supplement Payments

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION: Public Assistance Executive Staff
Medical Assistance Executive Staff
Social Services Executive Staff
SSI Co-ordinator

CONTACT PERSON: Any questions concerning this release should be directed to Abe Anolik, Bureau of Supplemental & Emergency Assistance at (800) 342-3715, extension 4-9357.

I. Purpose

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of State legislation which authorizes a "pass-through" of the July 1977 federal cost-of-living increases to most SSI recipients in New York State.

This letter relates only to the increase in SSI benefits. The effect of recent federal legislation on the MA eligibility of SSI recipients is covered by Administrative Directive 77 ADM 46. The impact of New York State legislation mandating that a personal needs allowance be provided to SSI recipients is covered by 77 ADM 71.

II. Background

A) Effective July 1, 1977, the federal SSI benefit was increased by 5.9%. This represents an increase of \$10 to individuals and \$14.90 to couples.

B) Chapter 431 of the Laws of 1977, effective July 1, 1977, provides for an increase in the standard of need for all SSI recipients except:

a) persons in Title XIX facilities

FILING REFERENCES

Previous INFs/ADMs	Dept. Regs.	Social Services Law and Other Legal References	Bulletin/Chapter Reference	Miscellaneous References
76 ADM-68 76 ADM-71 77 ADM-46 77 ADM-71		SSL 209		SSI State Manual

- b) persons in receipt of a mandatory state supplement whose net income (countable income plus SSI benefit) is higher than the new standard of need.

Effective July 1, 1977, the state standard of need for persons in independent living arrangements has been increased by \$10 for individuals, and \$14.90 for couples. This represents a pass-through of the entire federal cost-of-living increases.

Effective July 1, 1977, the state standard of need for persons in congregate care has been increased by \$10 for individuals and \$20 for couples. Effective October 1, 1977, the state supplement to persons in Level II facilities (NYS BSW Certified Homes for Adults and DMH certified Community Residences) will be increased by an additional \$8 for individuals and an additional \$16 for couples (See attached chart).

Note: Persons in receipt of regular Social Security (Title II) benefits and other similar federal benefits received 5.9% cost-of-living increases effective July 1, 1977. These increases are generally counted as income by the Social Security Administration and may reduce or eliminate the increase in the actual SSI benefit check. Nonetheless, the recipient will have an increase in his net income (countable income plus SSI benefit) equal to the increase in the appropriate state standard of need.

For example, an individual in receipt of both SSI and regular Social Security benefits would have \$10 more net income after July 1, 1977. If his Social Security benefit increased by \$6, his SSI check would have increased by \$4. If his Social Security benefit increased by \$12, his SSI check would have decreased by \$2. In either situation, the recipient would still have only \$10 more net income.

- c) Sections 6 and 7 of Chapter 431 of the Laws of 1977 contain "hold harmless" provisions which protect local districts from increases in the local share of state supplementation costs as follows: Section 6 provides that the state will bear any increase in the local share of state supplementation costs created by the October 1, 1977 increase of state supplementation to persons in congregate care Level II facilities; Section 7 provides that the state will bear any local share of state supplementation costs incurred from July 1, 1977 through December 31, 1977 which are in excess of the local share of state supplementation costs incurred during the previous six months.



Blanche Bernstein, Deputy Commissioner
for Income Maintenance

attachment

[1 includes \$10 Personal Needs Allowance]
 [2 includes \$18 Personal Needs Allowance]

SSI Benefit Levels: effective July 1, 1977 (*Effective October 1, 1977)

Living Arrangement	Federal L/A Code	Op. State Supp. Code	Federal Benefit		State Supplement		Total SSI Benefit	
			Ind.	Couple	Ind.	Couple	Ind.	Couple
Living Alone	A	A	177.80	266.70	60.85	75.94	238.65	342.64
Living with Others	A,C	B	177.80	266.70	8.18	26.94	185.98	293.64
Living in Household of Another	B	F	118.54	177.80	8.18	26.94	126.72	204.74
<u>Level I Family Care</u>								
a) Family Type Home	A	C						
b) Foster Care for Adults								
c) Family Care Home								
New York City			177.80	266.70	123.90	336.70	301.70 ¹	603.40 ¹
Rest of State			177.80	266.70	68.90	226.70	246.70 ¹	493.40 ¹
<u>Level II Residential Care</u>								
BSW Certified Homes for Adults & A		D						
Community Residences			177.80	266.70	218.90	526.70	396.70 ¹	793.40 ¹
					*226.90	*542.70	*404.70 ²	*803.40 ²
<u>Level III School for the Mentally Retarded</u>								
New York City	A	E	177.80	266.70	482.90	1,054.70	660.70 ¹	1,323.40 ¹
Dutchess, Orange, Ulster, Sullivan and Westchester			177.80	266.70	458.90	1,006.70	636.70 ¹	1,273.40 ¹
Rest of State			177.80	266.70	143.90	376.70	321.70 ¹	643.40 ¹
Title XIX Institution	D	Z	25.00	50.00	0	0	25.00	50.00