

TO: Local District Commissioners, IM Directors, FS Directors, CAP Coordinators
 FROM: Patricia A. Stevens, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Temporary Assistance
 SUBJECT: RSDI/SSI Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 1998
 CONTACT PERSON: PA: Jim Gaudet (4-9313); Food Stamp: Abe Anolik (4-7218); Rebudgeting: Don Evensen (4-9109)

HHS has notified us that the January 1, 1998 Federal COLA in RSDI (Social Security) and SSI benefits has been set at 2.1%. The new SSI benefit levels and Personal Needs Allowances (PNA's) are listed below. Please be advised that beginning this year we will not be issuing an Administrative Directive for this purpose. You may reference 97 ADM-1 for PA or Food Stamp policy instructions.

THE SSI BENEFIT LEVELS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1998

	<u>INDIVIDUAL</u>	<u>COUPLE</u>
Living Alone	\$580.00	\$843.50
Living with Others	517.00	786.00
(Living in HH of Another)	352.34	539.00
Level I (NYC, Nassau, Suffolk & Westchester)	760.48	1,520.96
(Rest of State)	722.48	1,444.96
Level II (NYC, Nassau, Suffolk & Westchester)	929.00	1,858.00
(Rest of State)	899.00	1,798.00
Level III (NYC, Nassau, Suffolk & Westchester)	976.96	1,953.92
(Rest of State)	952.96	1,905.92
Title XIX (Medicaid Institutions)	35.00	70.00

PNA: Level I = \$96.00 Level II = \$111.00 Level III = \$76.00

Additionally, the January 1, 1998 Food Stamp Group Living chart is attached. Districts who have difficulty printing this chart should contact their district liaison to arrange for a faxed copy.

Details of ABEL related changes will be contained in ABEL Transmittal 97-4.

FOOD STAMPS GROUP LIVING BUDGET DATA: EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1998 (Applicable for SSI/RSDI Recipients Only)			
Living Arrangement	New York City WMS External Budget Shelter Type Code	Upstate WMS ABEL Shelter Type Code	SSI Benefit
SSI Living with Others Benefit	N/A	N/A	\$517.00
Level I - Family Care			
OMH/OMRDD Certified Family Care Homes			
NYC, Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester	15	15	\$760.48
Rest of State	28	15	\$722.48
Level II - Residential Care			
OMH/OMRDD Certified Facility or DSS Certified Enriched Housing			
NYC, Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester	16,31	10,16,17	\$929.00
Rest of State	29,32	10,16,17	\$899.00
State (OMH/OMRDD) Operated Community Residences	17	13	\$494.00

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 and Westchester	\$96.00	\$243.48	\$299.00	\$122.00
Level I - Rest of State	\$96.00	\$205.48	\$299.00	\$122.00
Level II - NYC, Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester	\$111.00	\$412.00	\$284.00	\$122.00
OMH/OMRDD Certified Facility or DSS Certified Enriched Housing				
Level II - Rest of State	\$111.00	\$382.00	\$284.00	\$122.00
OMH/OMRDD Certified Facility or DSS Certified Enriched Housing				
State (OMH/OMRDD) Operated Community Residences	\$111.00	\$0	\$261.00	\$122.00
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.				
NOTE: The budget data and procedures above apply to residents receiving RSDI/SSI or to disabled residents not receiving RSDI/SSI or PA. 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 PA or RSDI/SSI.				