



Argeo Paul Cellucci
Governor

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
600 Washington Street • Boston MA 02111

William D. O'Leary
Secretary

FAX 98-202

Claire McIntire
Commissioner

Field Operations Memo 98-56
December 31, 1998

TO: Transitional Assistance Office Staff
FROM: Joyce Sampson, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations
RE: 1999 Social Security/SSI COLA for TAFDC, EAEDC and FS

Introduction

The yearly COLA has been scheduled. This Field Operations Memo gives the dates for each category and the dates when the new amounts for Social Security and SSI can be used.

Effective January 1, 1999, Social Security benefits and SSI payments increased by 1.3 percent. Base Medicare Part B premiums increased to \$45.50.

**PACES
Actions**

PACES will update all ongoing cases with 1999 Social Security (Type A) and/or SSI (Type 1) income to affect February benefits according to the following schedule. Use old (pre-January 1999) Social Security and/or SSI amounts when updating ongoing cases and establishing new or reopened cases data-entered up to the date listed in the table below.

Category, SSNs	Last Data Entry (old amount)	Scheduled COLA Date
9, SSNs 0-9	1/13/99	1/14/99
2TA, 4, SSNs 0-5	1/11/99	1/12/99
2TA, 4, SSNs 6-9	1/20/99	1/21/99

**PACES
Actions
(cont.)**

If at (re)application the old Social Security and SSI amounts are not available, use the new amounts. Keep a manual list of these cases to review after the COLA. **Entering the new amounts before the scheduled COLA date causes cases to be erroneously increased a second time.**

Reports

Reports will be issued after the COLA is completed and should be received by Transitional Assistance Offices during the first week in February. You will be receiving detailed instructions about the reports and general information about the COLA in Field Operations Memo 99-1.

Please note: If there are recipient questions before receipt of the reports, use the BENDEX and SDX inquiry screens which will be updated on 1/4/99 to reflect the new (January 1999) Social Security and SSI amounts.

Questions

If you have any policy questions, have your designee call the Policy Hotline at (617) 348-8478. Systems questions should be directed to Customer Support Services at (617) 348-5290.
