



*Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Transitional Assistance*

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Governor


MARYLOU SUDDERS  
Secretary

KARYN POLITO  
Lieutenant Governor

AMY KERSHAW  
Commissioner

**Online Guide Transmittal 2021-7  
January 29, 2021**

**To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff**

**From:**  **Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Change Management**

**Re: Cross Programs: 2021 Social Security COLA for TAFDC, EAEDC and SNAP**

**Overview**

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Every year in January, the Social Security Administration (SSA) implements a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for RSDI and SSI recipients. This year the COLA increase is 1.3%. This COLA can affect TAFDC, EAEDC and SNAP benefits. The Online Guide changes advise staff about:

- the implementation of the SSA COLA;
- the notices that will be sent to the affected households; and
- information on the 2021 Medicare Part B premiums, 2021 Medicare Part D deductibles and the 2021 Medex premiums.

COLA calculations for February 2021 are anticipated to be completed on the following schedule:

- Social Security numbers ending in 0-4 will be completed from 1/25/2021 through 1/29/2021; and
  - Social Security numbers ending in 5-9 will be completed from 2/1/2021 through 2/5/2021.
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**Revised Online  
Guide Pages**

**Topic:** SNAP  
**Book:** Expenses and Deductions  
**Chapter:** Health Insurance/Medical Expenses  
**Subchapter:** Medical Expenses  
**Page:** Medicare Part D

**Topic:** Scheduled Mailings/Projects  
**Book:** SSA COLA  
**Page:** SSA COLA Overview

**Topic:** Scheduled Mailings/Projects  
**Book:** SSA COLA  
**Page:** Medex Premiums

**Topic:** Scheduled Mailings/Projects  
**Book:** SSA COLA  
**Page:** Medicare Part B

**Topic:** Notices/Forms  
**Book:** Cross Program  
**Page:** Cross Program Notices

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**Revised  
Notices**

The following notices have been revised:

- Cash-Only SSA COLA Notice;
  - Cash and SNAP SSA COLA Notice;
  - Notice of Bay State Cap Food Assistance Benefits;
  - Residential Facility SSA COLA Notice; and
  - SNAP-Only SSA COLA Notice.
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**Questions**

If you have any policy or procedural questions, after conferring with the appropriate TAO personnel, please have your Systems Information Specialists or TAO management email DTA.Procedural Issues.

Systems issues should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.

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