

2004 Social Security/SSI COLA Update for TAFDC, EA, EAEDC and the Food Stamp Program

All

Field Operations Memo
2004-3

This Field Operations memo:

- informs TAO staff that, effective January 2004, Social Security benefits and SSI payments increased by 2.1 percent. The base level Medicare Part B premium increased from \$58.70 to \$66.60. The Medicare Part B penalty premium also increased;
- explains how BEACON updated Assessed Persons (APs) with the 2004 Social Security/SSI COLA amounts and recalculated eligibility for the active AUs containing the updated APs;
- explains which AUs listed on the “Clients With RSDI and/or SSI” View require AU Manager action; and
- gives procedures for AU Managers to update AUs with discrepant 2004 Social Security/SSI COLA amounts.

FYI

Signature Page Updates

The Department recently updated the language on the signature page of all paper applications and BEACON-generated applications.

Food Stamp Rights and Responsibilities: Applicants and recipients are now informed of their responsibility to report and verify expenses to receive the related deduction in their food stamp calculation. This is a Department initiative to decrease recipient-caused QC errors. The recipient will not be allowed the deduction unless the expense is verified.

Food Stamp Employment and Training: By signing the application, AU members between the ages of 16 and 60 are now automatically enrolled in FS/E&T. This simplified registration is part of the Department’s overall outreach effort. A simplified FS/E&T enrollment process is convenient for recipients, AU Managers and our collaborating agencies.

Local Housing Authorities: By signing the application, the applicant gives the Department permission to contact local housing authorities to verify or corroborate information relating to eligibility for assistance and services.

FYI

Changes to Policy Online

This month you will see the following changes to Policy Online.

Related Systems Information Window

The AU Processing option has been deleted from the list of available options and a new option *Food Stamp AU Processing* has been added to the list.

Food Stamp AU Processing Window

The AU Processing window displays the following options:

- NPA Food Stamp Benefits and Pure SSI Food Stamp Benefits Processing Chart; and
- Expedited Food Stamp Benefits Issuance Chart.

The First, Second and Third Quarter AU Processing Schedules previously accessed from the AU Processing window are available as Actuate Reports.