



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

Argeo Paul Cellucci  
 Governor

Jane Swift  
 Lieutenant Governor

William D. O'Leary  
 Secretary

Claire McIntire  
 Commissioner

**Field Operations Memo 2000-34**  
**December 15, 2000**

**To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff**

**From: Joyce Sampson, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations**

**Re: 2001 Social Security/SSI COLA for TAFDC, EAEDC and FS**

**Introduction**

The Social Security and SSI cost-of-living adjustments have 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, 2001, Social Security benefits and SSI payments will increase by 3.5 percent. The basic Medicare Part B premium will increase from \$45.50 to \$50.00 per month.

**PACES Actions**

PACES will update all ongoing cases with 2001 Social Security (Type A) and/or SSI (Type 1) income to affect February benefits according to the following schedule. Use old (pre-January 2001) 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	1/9/2001	1/10/2001
2, 4, SSNs 0-5	1/10/2001	1/11/2001
2, 4, SSNs 6-9	1/12/2001	1/16/2001

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**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.**

**Note:** BENDEX and SDX will be updated on 1/2/2001 with the new amounts. Social Security Verification has already been updated with the new amounts. However, the new amounts must not be entered until after the COLA has been completed.

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**Reports**

Reports, detailed instructions about the reports and general information will be issued after the COLA is completed and should be received by Transitional Assistance Offices in February 2001.

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**Questions**

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

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