



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
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FAX 99-165

Field Operations Memo 99-35
December 31, 1999

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff

From:  Joyce Sampson, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations

Re: 2000 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, 2000, Social Security benefits and SSI payments increased by 2.4 percent. Base Medicare Part B premiums did not increase.

PACES Actions

PACES will update all ongoing cases with 2000 Social Security (Type A) and/or SSI (Type 1) income to effect February benefits according to the following schedule. Use old (pre-January 2000) 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	1/11/2000	1/12/2000
2, 4, SSNs 0-5	1/12/2000	1/13/2000
2, 4, SSNs 6-9	1/14/2000	1/18/2000

**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, detailed instructions about the reports and general information will be issued after the COLA is completed and should be received by Transitional Assistance Offices during the first week in February 2000.

Please note: If there are recipient questions before receipt of the reports, use the BENDEX and SDX inquiry screens which will be updated on 1/3/2000 to reflect the new (January 2000) Social Security and SSI amounts.

Questions

If you have any policy 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.
