

Social Security Administration Announces 2019 Cost of Living Adjustment

ODP Announcement 19-008

AUDIENCE:

Providers of Residential Habilitation services, Life Sharing and Family Living for the Consolidated Waiver, Community Living Waiver and Adult Autism Waivers, Providers of Base-Funded Residential Habilitation and Life Sharing services, and All Other Interested Parties

PURPOSE:

To provide notice that the Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment will increase beginning January 2019.

DISCUSSION:

Supplemental Security Income is a Federal program that provides benefits to adults and children who meet the Social Security Administration (SSA) requirements for disability, income, and resources. This income benefit is designed to help qualified individuals meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter.

Periodically, a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) affects the maximum monthly allotment. Effective January 2019, the Social Security Administration increased the SSI allotment by 2.8 percent to reflect an increase in the cost of living. This raises the maximum monthly income to \$771 for an eligible individual, \$1,157 for an eligible individual with an eligible spouse, and \$386 for an essential person.

There is no anticipated increase in the State Supplementary Payment (SSP) for 2019.

To account for the new COLA, Room and Board contracts should be reviewed to determine appropriate adjustment. For more specific information regarding the room and board requirements for waiver funded Residential Habilitation, Life Sharing and

Family Living services, please see 55 Pa. Code Sections 51. 121-51.128. Room and Board requirements will also be included in 55 Pa. Code Chapter 6100 and will be effective 120 days after the regulations are published. The Room and Board contract is form **DP 1051** on MyODP.

This announcement obsoletes Announcement 002-18, effective January 1, 2019, *Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Increase for Calendar Year 2018*.

For more specific information regarding SSI and the COLA, please review the [U.S. Social Security Administration website](#).