

Belit Stockfleth, Manager, Food Stamps and  
Prevention Programs

Authorized Signature

Number: SS-IM-07-032

Issue Date: 12/20/2007

Topic: Food Benefits

Subject: January 1, 2008 COLA and Food Stamps

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- |                                     |                               |                                     |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | All DHS employees             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | County Mental Health Directors       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Area Agencies on Aging        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Health Services                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Children, Adults and Families | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | County DD Program Managers    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Other (please specify):              |

**Message:**

Apply this policy upon receipt of this transmittal.

It is almost time for the annual Social Security COLA adjustment made January 1. There is confusion each year regarding when the income should change for FS.

Many FS cases now use the SRS reporting system. Due to the issues surrounding the coding of correct SSB/SSD/SSI amounts on FS cases, it was decided the information is not verified on receipt.

For January 1, 2008, only FS cases in CRS or MRS will receive the automatic COLA. The automatic COLA will not occur on FS cases using SRS or TBA.

Due to this change in the automatic COLAs, workers must process recertifications effective 1/1/08 in December as follows:

For cases using CRS or MRS: Use the December SSB/SSD/SSI amount. The computer will automatically update the income to the new amount at end of day 12/31/08. If the case is recertified using the 1/1/08 income, workers may need to adjust the amount again in January. For cases using SRS: Use the January 2008 SSB/SSD/SSI amount for the January 1, 2008 recertification.

For those cases that have already been recertified in SRS for January 1, do not go back and change the income. Leave the income alone until a verified reported change is received, interim change, or the next recertification whichever is earlier.

Offices may request a list of FS cases with the REP household type if they wish to adjust the shelter costs for cases in CRS. This list will be available in January. Contact the FS Policy Unit for a copy.

A second message will be sent with information on the COLA notices.

*If you have any questions about this information, contact:*

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