



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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MEMORANDUM

TO: **DDSO Directors**
Directors, Schools for the Mentally Retarded
Executive Directors, Voluntary Agency Community Residence Operators
Executive Directors, Voluntary Agency Individualized Residential Alternative Operators
Executive Directors, Voluntary Agency Intermediate Care Facility Operators
Executive Directors, Sponsoring Agency Family Care Operators
Business Officers, Voluntary Agencies
Central Office Distribution Schedule #2
DDSO Deputy Directors for Administrative Services
DDSO Deputy Directors for Community Services
DDSO Business Officers
Family Care Coordinators
Revenue Support Field Offices
Provider Associations
Multicultural Provider Network

FROM: Gary O'Loughlin 
Acting Director
Revenue Support Field Operations

DATE: November 21, 2008

SUBJECT: Increase in SSI Benefit Levels and Personal Allowance Amounts

Recent legislation provides for increased Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit payments to all levels of congregate care. As a result of this legislation, the following payment schedule will be effective as of January 1, 2009 for all congregate care facilities operated and/or certified by OMRDD.

	<u>SSI</u>	<u>PERSONAL ALLOWANCE*</u>	<u>PROVIDER PAYMENT</u>
LEVEL I – Family Care			
New York City, Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester Counties	\$940.48	\$130.00	\$810.48
Rest of State	\$902.48	\$130.00	\$772.48



	<u>SSI</u>	<u>PERSONAL ALLOWANCE*</u>	<u>PROVIDER PAYMENT</u>
LEVEL II – Community Residence (includes IRAs)			
State Operated	\$ 674.00	\$150.00	\$524.00
Voluntary Operated			
New York City, Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester Counties	\$1,109.00	\$150.00	\$959.00
Rest of State	\$1,079.00	\$150.00	\$929.00
LEVEL III – Schools for the Mentally Retarded	\$1,368.00	\$178.00	\$1190.00

*Exclusive of \$20 income disregard and work related exemptions.

The personal allowance for all individuals who reside in developmental centers, state operated ICFs and voluntary operated ICFs will remain \$35.00.

The SSI resource exemption for an individual remains \$2,000. The Department of Health has not announced the Medicaid resource exemption for January 1, 2009. The Medicaid resource exemption effective 01/01/2008 was \$4,350 and effective 04/01/2008 was increased to \$13,050. The OMRDD website (www.omr.state.ny.us/hp_provider.jsp) will be updated as soon as the 2009 level is announced. The benefit information may be accessed by clicking on OMRDD Benefit-Related Memoranda now has Medicare D information available. You may also check the Department of Health website (http://www.health.state.ny.us/health_care/medicaid/index.htm) or call OMRDD's local Revenue Support Field Offices (RSFO) to determine the 2009 resource exemption amount. The RSFOs can also offer general assistance on benefits and personal allowance. To obtain the telephone number of your local RSFO, you can either access the OMRDD website (www.omr.state.ny.us/document/medicaid/hp_rsfo.jsp) or call (518) 402-4339.

The SSI Benefit Levels chart issued by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance is attached. Please direct any questions to your local RSFO.

DDSOs are to disseminate information in this memorandum to their Family Care providers. Voluntary Agencies should provide this information to appropriate staff and Agency Sponsored Family Care providers.

For your convenience, the information contained in this memo is available on the OMRDD website. Please go to http://www.omr.state.ny.us/wt/publications/wt_ssimemo_1-2009.jsp.

**IMPORTANT UPDATE
CASH AT RESIDENCE**

Effective January 1, 2009, the maximum amount of cash that may be kept at the residence for each person is \$198.

SSI Benefit Levels Chart effective January 1, 2009 (reflects the 5.8% federal COLA for January 2009)

Fed L/A Code	State Supp Code	New York State Living Arrangement	Individual			Couple		
			Federal	State	TOTAL ¹	Federal	State	TOTAL
A	A	Living Alone	\$674	\$87	\$761	\$1,011	\$104	\$1,115
A, C (B)	B (F)	Living With Others (Living in the Household of Another) ²	674 (449.34)	23	697 (472.34)	1,011 (674.00)	46	1,057 (720.00)
A	C	Congregate Care Level 1 - Family Care <input type="checkbox"/> OCFS certified Family Type Homes <input type="checkbox"/> OMH or OMRDD certified Family Care Homes <i>NYC, Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester Counties</i> <i>Rest of State</i>	674	266.48	940.48	1,011	869.96	1,880.96
A	D	Congregate Care Level 2 - Residential Care <input type="checkbox"/> DOH certified Residences for Adults <input type="checkbox"/> OMH or OMRDD certified Community Residences, Individualized Residential Alternatives and OASAS certified Chemical Dependence Residential Services <i>NYC, Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester Counties</i> <i>Rest of State</i>	674	435	1,109	1,011	1,207	2,218
A	E	Congregate Care Level 3 - Enhanced Residential Care <input type="checkbox"/> DOH certified Adult Homes and Enriched Housing programs <input type="checkbox"/> OMRDD certified Schools for the Mentally Retarded <i>Rest of State</i>	674	405	1,079	1,011	1,147	2,158
D	Z	Title XIX (Medicaid certified) Institutions ³	30	0 ⁴	30 ⁴	60	0 ⁴	60 ⁴
A	Z	(see below) ⁵	674	0	674	1,011	0	1,011

Minimum Personal Needs Allowances
 Congregate Care Level 1 - \$130
 Congregate Care Level 2 - \$150
 Congregate Care Level 3 - \$178

Limits on Countable Resources
 Individuals \$2,000
 Couples \$3,000

¹ The combined federal and State SSI benefit provided to eligible individuals and eligible couples with no countable income.
² The *Living With Others* category includes recipients whose federal benefit has been reduced by the "value of the 1/3 reduction" (VTR) due to the federal determination that they are both: a) living in someone else's household, and b) receiving some amount of free or subsidized food and shelter (room and board).
³ Applies when an SSI recipient is residing in a medical facility, is not expected to return home within 90 days, and Medicaid is paying for at least 50% of the cost of care.
⁴ Recipients in nursing homes licensed by DOH receive an additional monthly grant of \$25 issued by OTDA called a State Supplemental Personal Needs Allowance (SSPNA). Residents of other medical facilities receive an SSPNA of \$5.
⁵ This zero federally-administered State supplement applies: a) when an SSI recipient is residing in a private medical facility and Medicaid is paying for less than 50% of the cost of care, or b) when a recipient resides in certain publicly operated residential facilities serving 16 or fewer residents, or c) while a recipient resides in a public emergency shelter for 6 calendar months during a 9 month period.