Update 2004-19: Common Place
SSA COLA

Background
Social Security recipients receive an annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) at the beginning of each calendar year.

Changes
A 2.7% increase to Social Security benefits is effective December 1, 2004 and payable January 2005. This increase must be budgeted and manually adjusted on CDS as follows for all CalWORKs and Food Stamp applicants and recipients.

CalWORKS & Food Stamps
The following changes apply to both CalWORKs and Food Stamp benefits.

Quarterly Reporting
For Quarterly Reporting recipients, the SSA COLA is not considered a mid-quarter county initiated action and therefore benefits must be adjusted according to the following chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CYCLE</th>
<th>1ST MO. PAYMENT QUARTER</th>
<th>DATA MONTH</th>
<th>SUBMIT MONTH</th>
<th>ANTICIPATE SSA COLA FOR:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10/04</td>
<td>11/04</td>
<td>12/04</td>
<td>01/05 and ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>11/04</td>
<td>12/04</td>
<td>01/05</td>
<td>02/05 and ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>12/04</td>
<td>01/05</td>
<td>02/05</td>
<td>03/05 and ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Food Stamps
The following changes apply to Food Stamp benefits only.
Change Reporting

For Change Reporting households, benefits must be adjusted no later than the second allotment issued after the month in which the change becomes effective. (i.e. no later than March 2005).

New Applicants

The increased Social Security benefit amount must be used for eligibility and budgeting purposes beginning with the month of January 2005.

Example:

A client applies in November. The QR payment quarters are November, December and January, based on the date of application. The SSA COLA increase will be reasonably anticipated for the month of January.

$100.00 in November,
$100.00 in December, and
$102.70 in January. (with COLA increase.)

$302.70 divide by 3 months= $100.90 Qtr. Average

Data Systems

The following CDS listings must be used in order to determine and anticipate the SSA COLA increase for all SSA recipients:

CDS 076

The CDS 076 Listing will be distributed to staff on December 13, 2004. The CDS 076 Listing contains all SSA BICS requiring COLA review. The following are the CW and FS BICs that require manual adjustment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CW BIC</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>FS BIC</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>420</td>
<td>RSDI</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>RSDI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>430</td>
<td>VA PENSION</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>VA PENSION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>431</td>
<td>VA COMP</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>ANNUITY/PENSION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>432</td>
<td>VA EDUC</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>GI BILL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>435</td>
<td>RR RETIRE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSD</td>
<td>SOC SEC DIS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CDS 608

The CDS 608 Listing will display BICs requiring COLA review for the months of January, February and March. The CDS 608 listing:

- For Quarterly Reporting, the CDS 068 listing, in conjunction with the QR 7, must be used to determine benefits for the upcoming quarter as per the chart on page 1.

Note: If the new SSA amount is not reported on the QR 7, a “Y” hold must be placed on the case.
• For Change Reporting households the CDS 608 listing must be used to ensure the increased income amount is used in the Food Stamp budget no later than March 2005.

Note: For Change Reporting households, the COLA maybe budgeted as early as for the January 2005 issuance, however there is no payment error as long as it is budgeted by the March issuance month.

Clerical See “Data Systems.”

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