

MANUAL MATERIAL TRANSMITTED					
MANUAL: INCOME MAINTENANCE			CHANGE NUMBER: 128		
DELETE			INSERT OR CHANGE		
PAGES	CHAPTER	DATED	PAGES	CHAPTER	DATED
Appendix B	2	3/98	B-1 - B-2	2	3/99
			B-3	2	3/98
			B-4 - B-7	2	3/99
			B-8	2	3/98
DATE: February, 1999			TO: All Maintenance Manual Holders		

This change is being made to update Chapter 2, Appendix B, for the Cost of Living Updates for 1999. The information in Appendix B was prepared by RAPIDS staff. All automatic updates are effective March, 1999. Please read this material carefully for information about which cases must be reviewed, evaluated and updated by the Worker.

The RAPIDS COLA Mass Change is scheduled for February 5, 1999. RAPIDS reports for the COLA update will be available on February 8, 1999. Manual updates must be completed by the deadline date in February, effective March, 1999. The Pickle Assistance Groups printout will be mailed to local offices for use with the instructions in this change.

Questions regarding the RAPIDS COLA Update process should be directed to RAPIDS staff. All other questions should be directed to the OFS Policy Unit.

APPENDIX B

RSDI/SSI INCREASES 1999

In January 1999, SSI and RSDI recipients received a cost-of-living increase of 1.3%. The new maximum payment levels for SSI are:

Single - \$500

Couple - \$751

The Medicare premium amount is \$45.50.

A. THE RSDI/SSI COLA UPDATE PROCESS

An automatic Cost of Living (COLA) update will occur for most Assistance Groups (AGs) in RAPIDS that have RSDI and/or SSI entered on AFUI. Two basic standards must be met in order for the update to occur. First, the Social Security Number (SSN) in RAPIDS must match the SSN in the Social Security Administration file, or failing this, the SS claim number on AFUI must match the claim number on the SSA file. Second, the individual's RSDI and/or SSI income must have been entered on AFUI in RAPIDS. The automatic update will not occur if the RSDI and/or SSI income was never entered on AFUI, or if it was entered, but was end-dated prior to March, 1999. Also, the automatic update will not occur if the begin date for RSDI and/or SSI income on AFUI is later than February, 1999. The automatic update is effective March, 1999.

For QMB and SLIMB AG's, additional functionality has been added to AFUI to enhance the success of the COLA Mass Change. This will prevent the inappropriate closure and denial of these AG's during the months of January, February and March. When any form of Social Security income (RSDI) is entered on AFUI with an Effective MMY of January, February, or March, RAPIDS will enter a COLA disregard amount on that version of the screen using a calculation based on the percentage of the COLA increase, unless a "COLA Disregard Amount" other than zero is also being entered. For procedures regarding Pickle AG's see Section 4.

- Part B Amount

This is the Part B Medicare premium. This column is divided into two additional columns. The first column is the Medicare premium found in RAPIDS (the amount prior to the premium increase). The second column is the Medicare premium found on the tape sent by the Social Security Administration (amount after premium increase).

- Black Lung (BLK-Lung)

The Black Lung Code displayed is as follows:

E	-	Entitled first month paid
N	-	Non-payment status
P	-	Entitlement Pending
T	-	Terminated
D	-	Deceased
Blank	-	No data received

The Black Lung amount will be the amount provided by SSA.

- Railroad Code (RR)

This will be a Y (yes) or N (no) display only.

- Match Result

This is the result of the match between the information in RAPIDS prior to the COLA updates and the information on the COLA update tape sent by the Social Security Administration.

The Worker may see multiple entries on this printout for the same individual. The Worker must carefully review each entry for the individual. A variety of situations will result in multiple entries.

Examples of Match Result messages are:

- If the customer receives both RSDI and SSI, and each benefit was updated successfully, the Worker will see the individual name on the printout twice with the match result "Record Successfully Updated". It appears

- If there is a Medicare premium amount other than zero on AFMD and no Medicare amount on the COLA tape, the Worker will see two entries for the individual on the Match Report. The Match Result for the first entry is "Person is Not Part B Entitled". The Match Result for the second entry is "Record Successfully Updated". These entries mean the Medicare premium amount has been updated in RAPIDS to zero (\$0.00).

If there is a Medicare premium amount of zero on AFMD and the COLA tape shows the individual is eligible for Medicare, the Match Result for the first entry is "Person is Part B Entitled". The Match Result for the second entry is "Record Successfully Updated".

- The Worker will see multiple entries for an individual if the automatic update resulted in an update of the Medicare premium amount and the Medicare payor (either the state as payor through the Buy-In process or customer as self-payor). The Match Result for the premium update is "Record Successfully Updated". The Match Result for the payor update is "Updated Part B Payor".
- When the RSDI/SSI/Medicare premium amount(s) in RAPIDS reflects the same amount as listed on the COLA tape, and the begin MMY in RAPIDS is prior to March, 1999, the Match Result will be "Record Successfully Updated". When this occurs the Worker will see the same amount(s) listed in both the SSA and RAPIDS columns. When this occurs no action is necessary.
- The Match Result "No COLA Record Found" means that this individual was not found on the Social Security Administration's tape for this RAPIDS SSN. When trying to resolve this match result, first check to be sure the customer's Social Security Number is correct. If the SSN is correct then the customer may be receiving SSA benefits under a SS Claim Number. Check DXSA.

amount. PF8 to the next screen. This should display the COLA disregard amount which previously allowed the AG to pass. Add the two COLA disregard amounts together and enter the total on the current AFUI screen for RSDI. Run SFED. Check the benefits for correctness, then confirm. Suppress any inappropriate notices.