

Social Security Administration Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2023 and its Impact on the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

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Background

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has received questions in recent months related to the Social Security Administration's (SSA's) Announcement (<https://www.ssa.gov/news/press/releases/2022/#10-2022-2>) of an 8.7 percent benefit increase for 2023 and how this may impact the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). To address these questions, we are sharing some overview information on the change and some information on how it will impact households.

Social Security Income (SSI) Payment Increases for 2023 and Impact on FDPIR

Beginning on December 30, 2022, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) maximum monthly payments for individuals will increase by \$73 and couples will increase by \$110:

- Individuals: from \$841 per month (2022) to \$914 per month (2023).
- Couples: from \$1,261 per month (2022) to \$1,371 per month (2023).

As a reminder, households in which all members are included in a federal public assistance or **SSI** grant **automatically** meet income eligibility requirements for FDPIR. See FNS Handbook 501 (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/fdpir/fns-handbook-501>), Chapter 4, Section 4300. Therefore, the ITO/State agency will not test any of the incomes of the households against Exhibit M FY 2023 Net Monthly Income Standards (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/fdpir/net-monthly-income-standards>).

For non-categorically eligible households, increases in gross monthly income of more than \$100 must be reported within 10 days of the date that the change becomes known to the household. See FNS Handbook 501, Chapter 5, Section 5141.

- The SSI increase for an individual in the amount of \$73 would not require the household to report this change in income.
- The SSI increase for a couple in the amount of \$110 would require the household to report the change in income.

You can read more about the changes to other types of Social Security benefits in the "2023 Social Security Changes Fact Sheet" provided by SSA. To view the fact sheet, please visit <https://www.ssa.gov/cola/>, then scroll down the page and click on the link "read more about the COLA tax, benefit and earning amounts for 2023."