



**Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
State Supplemental Payment (SSP)
State Administration
FACT SHEET
Effective January 1, 2011**

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal program that provides monthly benefits to people who are age 65 or older, blind or disabled and who have low income and limited resources.
- The State of Rhode Island supplements the Federal benefit rate for eligible persons.

CURRENT PROCESS

- The Social Security Administration currently determines eligibility for both the Federal benefit and the State Supplement in Rhode Island.
- Monthly payments include Federal and State benefits to those eligible.
- Some individuals may only be eligible for the smaller State Supplement.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2011

- The R.I. Department of Human Services will administer the State Supplemental portion of the SSI-SSP benefit.
- The Social Security Administration will continue to send the Federal portion of the SSI benefit in the same manner it is currently administered.
- The R.I. Department of Human Services will issue supplemental benefits as a separate payment.
 - Individuals who received one check from the SSA prior to January 1, 2011 will now receive two checks that equal the amount of the previously issued single check.
 - Individuals who received one direct deposit from the SSA prior to January 1, 2011 will now receive two direct deposits equal to the amount of the previously issued single direct deposit.
 - Individuals who received benefits via Direct Express will receive the Federal portion of their SSI benefit on the Direct Express, and the RI SSP will be issued on a check. The benefit amount will not change.
- Direct Deposits will be made on the first day of the month (same as the SSA).
- Checks will be mailed for delivery on the first day of each month. In the event the first is a weekend/holiday, the check will be mailed on the last business day of the previous month (same as the SSA).
- **NOTE:** In the event a direct deposit is rejected or a check is lost/stolen a replacement check will be re-issued in the next monthly payroll to eligible recipients.

The RI Department of Human Services is not eliminating or reducing supplemental benefits. The Social Security Administration will administer and issue only Federal SSI benefits. The RI Department of Human services will administer and issue the State supplemental SSI benefits.

WHY IS THIS CHANGE HAPPENING

- The State of Rhode Island has always provided a portion of the monthly SSI Payment as a State Supplemental Payment. Through careful planning, the State has determined that it can effectively administer its portion of the payments directly and at the same time achieve administrative savings.

VERIFICATION LETTER

- A letter will be sent from the State of RI providing the dollar amount of the State benefit at the end of January 2011 and then on a yearly basis to recipients.

OVERVIEW

- Applicants eligible for Federal and State payments will continue to be reviewed by the Federal SSA.
- Beginning January 1, 2011, applicants, first denied by the SSA because of income, will have their applications reviewed by the SSI-SSP Unit located at the Pawtucket DHS Office, 24 Commerce St., Pawtucket, RI. A determination of eligibility will be made via the newly created web application (entered by the DHS Social Caseworker).
- The SSI-SSP Social Caseworker (SCW) will initiate the Medical Assistance Review Team (MART) application for appropriate cases. The case will then be reviewed by the MART to determine disability.
- Applicants who visit one of the six field offices throughout the State may:
 - Complete an application and have the application forwarded to the newly created SSI-SSP Unit. The application will be date stamped in the field office to protect the date of application and the applicant's request for assistance.
 - OR the applicant may request an interview with the SSI-SSP Unit. If an interview is requested, the field office will call the SSI-SSP Unit and set up a day and time for the applicant to meet with the SSI-SSP Social Caseworker.
- Questions regarding this program can be directed to the SSI-SSP Unit at 401-721-6633.
- Individuals speaking a language other than English will be assisted with the "Language Line."