



October 14, 2021

GENERAL NEWS

Social Security Benefits to Increase by 5.9 Percent in 2022

In a [press release](#) yesterday, the Social Security Administration ([SSA](#)) announced that Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits will increase by 5.9 percent in 2022.

The latest COLA is 5.9 percent for Social Security benefits and SSI payments. Social Security benefits will increase by 5.9 percent beginning with the December 2021 benefits, which are payable in January 2022. Federal SSI payment levels will also increase by 5.9 percent effective for payments made for January 2022. Because the normal SSI payment date is the first of the month and January 1 is a holiday, the SSI payments for January are always made at the end of the previous December.

The COLA is based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W), as determined by the Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics, from the third quarter of 2020 through the third quarter of 2021. You can learn more about it [here](#).

OLHCHH Awards Over \$15 Million for Technical Studies

In a [press release](#) yesterday, HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes ([OLHCHH](#)) announced that it has awarded \$15.7 million to 18 universities, public health, and housing organizations to conduct housing-related hazard and energy efficiency research studies. The grants, awarded under HUD’s Lead and Healthy Homes Technical Studies Program for fiscal year 2021, aim to identify and improve methods for detecting and controlling lead and other housing-related health and safety hazards to protect children and other vulnerable groups and will incorporate weatherization into residential lead and healthy homes interventions. A project-by-project summary of the program awards can be found at the bottom of the press release.

HCV PROGRAM NEWS

HUD Posts 2020 HAP Set-Aside Award Eligibility

This week on the Housing Voucher Financial Management Division ([FMD](#)) webpage, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) posted the [2020 HAP Set-aside Award Eligibility](#). The Excel file, dated October 8, 2021, shows the amounts for which PHAs are eligible in the following set-aside categories:

- Category 2a: Unforeseen Circumstances
- Category 2b: Portability
- Category 3: Project-Based Voucher
- Category 4: HUD-VASH
- Category 5: Lower-Than-Average Leasing
- Category 6: Disaster

NMA NEWS

NMA Honors Four Agencies with 2021 NMA Housing Awards

The [NMA Housing Awards](#) recognize excellence in the affordable housing industry, honoring agencies for innovative housing developments or outstanding service to residents. Please join us in acknowledging this year’s winners:

- Development Award – Large Agency: [Glendower Group](#), an instrumentality of the [Housing Authority of New Haven](#), is in the process of revitalizing Mill River Crossing, formerly a 1940s public housing development that was neither financially sustainable nor up to current standards. Glendower Group brought public agencies, nearby businesses, and residents into the neighborhood improvement process to discuss and brainstorm options. The mixed-use, mixed-income Mill River Crossing community also offers a variety of supportive care services, including transportation assistance and food bank access.
- Development Award – Small Agency: [Trinity Financial](#), with funding from MassHousing’s [Workforce Housing Initiative](#), rehabilitated the Worcester Courthouse into a modern, affordable living option for the city’s diverse population. Built in 1845, the restored courthouse retains its classic architecture alongside new amenities like a media room, fitness center, children’s playroom, and the Major Taylor Museum, commemorating America’s first black cyclist to win a world championship.
- Resident Service Award – Large Agency: [Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority](#) (CMHA) saw that their residents needed advocates to help them navigate government and community resources meant to aid them on the path to self-sufficiency. CMHA partnered with [Healthcare Collaborative of Greater Columbus](#) to offer sensitive, trauma-informed service coordination to all 14,000 households they serve in their housing communities and the HCV program.
- Resident Service Award – Small Agency: [East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority](#) (EBRPHA) responded with compassion and dedication to maintenance staff reports of multiple children without their own bed to sleep in. With affiliate nonprofit [Partners Southeast](#), EBRPHA raised funds for 50 children’s beds and 18 cribs, all with bedding, and leveraged staff and volunteers to deliver and assemble the beds. The Beds for Babies/Beds for Kids initiative not only provided relief to families during a difficult financial period but gave children a better chance at a good night’s sleep and the health and academic benefits that come with it.

Thanks to all who submitted a nomination or joined us to support the winners at our virtual awards ceremony.



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