

## WHAT'S NEW FOR 2015?

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### **Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA):**

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries will receive a **1.7% COLA** for 2015.

**In New Hampshire** – Based on this same COLA, the adult Standards of Need (SON) which are used in the Old Age Assistance, Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled, and Aid to the Needy Blind eligibility and benefit determination will also increase 1.7% for 2015. The new SON for 2015 in Independent Living Arrangement is \$747 for an individual or \$1,101 for a couple.

Other important updates for 2015:

- The **Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)** amount for individuals with disabilities other than blindness has increased from \$1,070/month to **\$1,090**.
- The **SGA amount for individuals who are blind** has increased from \$1,800/month to **\$1,820**.
- The monthly earnings amount used to determine if a month counts for a **Trial Work Period (TWP)** has increased to \$780.
- The income amount that will have no effect on benefits for SSI beneficiaries who are **students (Student Earned Income Exclusion)** has increased from \$1,750/month to **\$1,780**. The **yearly maximum** amount has increased from \$7,060 to **\$7,180**.
- The **1619b New Hampshire State Threshold Amount** for individuals receiving SSI is **\$39,503**. This means that even if SSI cash benefits are eliminated, NH Medicaid coverage will remain in effect until annual earnings reach this threshold amount.
- **The Resource Limits for the Medicare Savings Programs (QMB/SLMB)** have increased: \$7,280 for an individual and \$10,930 for a couple.