

Social Security Administration Cost-of-Living Increase For 2015

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Federal Benefit Rate (FBR) will Increase in 2014

SSI FBR will increase in January 2015. The FBR is the maximum amount someone on SSI can receive if they have no other income. The FBR is also important in calculating how a person's SSI payment is affected when they work. If you receive SSI and want to know how this applies to your situation, call the WIPA program.

Federal Benefit Rate

	2015
Individual	\$733
Couple	\$1,100

Resource limits for SSI and SSI 1619(b) will remain the same (\$2,000 for an individual; \$3,000 per couple).

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits automatically increased in January 2015 by 1.7%.

Medicare Part B Premium

The Medicare Part B premium will be \$104.90 in 2015.

Trial Work Period (TWP) Months (for persons on SSDI)

The minimum amount of earnings for a TWP month will be \$780 in 2015.

The TWP is 9 months (not necessarily consecutive) during which an SSDI, CDB, or DWB beneficiary may test his or her ability to work.

Beginning in January 2015, if a person earns \$780 or more in a month, that month will count as one of the 9 trial work months. If self-employed, working more than 80 hours in a month will also count as a TWP month. During a TWP month a person can earn as much as they want and still receive their check.

Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) Level for People with Disabilities

The SGA limit for people with disabilities will increase from \$1,070 per month to \$1,090 in 2015. When applying for SSI, SSDI, CDB or DWB, a person's countable earned income must be below SGA

level. Once benefits are approved, the SGA is only relevant for those on SSDI or CDB, or DWB. After the Trial Work Period has been completed, persons on SSDI, CDB, or DWB may not receive their cash benefits if their countable earned income goes over the SGA level. However, special work incentives may allow them to earn more. Call the FPE Program for further information.

SGA for People Who Are Blind

The SGA limit for people who are blind will be \$1,820 per month in 2015.

Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE) - for persons on SSI

The SEIE enables students to earn money to pay for school expenses. A portion of the money the student earns is NOT counted in determining how much their SSI payments are reduced. In 2015, the SEIE will be \$1,780 per month may be excluded, with a maximum annual exclusion of \$7,180 per year.

To Contact The Financial Planning for Employment (FPE) Program at GSIL regarding any questions, call:

Toll Free: 1-877-809-7028