

Massachusetts Switch to State Administration of the SSI State Supplement

Effective 4.1.2012, Massachusetts plans to take over administration of the Mass. SSI state supplement.

Currently, Mass has federal administration of the SSI state supplement, which means that SSA determines eligibility for the state supplement and includes the state supplement in one check with the federal SSI benefit.

The reason for the change is to save the fee that SSA charges the state for federal administration of the SSI state supplement.

However, this change will result in more than just the recipient receiving two checks. It also appears to mean that the state will determine eligibility for the SSI state supplement, recipients will be receiving two sets of notices, and recipients would need to pursue appeals of state supplement determinations through the state's administrative appeal system. See the attachment provided at today's SSI Coalition by from Roberto Medina, Director of Public Affairs, SSA's Region 1 Office.

There are also effects on whether recipients can use Direct Express and it's unclear how attorneys' fees would be handled.