



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services

325 North Salisbury Street
2420 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2420
Courier # 56-20-25

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

Sherry S. Bradsher, Director
(919) 733-3055

September 1, 2009

Re: Notification of October 2009 Food and Nutrition Services Mass Change Notice

Dear County Director of Social Services:

Attention: Food and Nutrition Services Supervisors

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued the annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) to Food and Nutrition Services benefits effective October 1, 2009. The Food and Nutrition Services Program maximum gross and net income limits, excess shelter expense deduction, and the standard deduction for households will change. These changes may or may not increase the monthly benefit amount households receive in October 2009. Due to the April 2009 allotment increase from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, the maximum allotment amounts will remain the same.

Federal regulations allow states the option of mailing notices to individual households notifying them of the possible changes in their allotment amounts. We will not mail individual notices to FNS households. We have attached an English and Spanish notice to this letter to be displayed in all waiting areas of your agency from the date received until October 31, 2009. This will serve as notice to FNS recipients of a possible change in benefits and their right to request a hearing. This notice will also be available on the Food and Nutrition Services web site at: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/pubnotice/index.htm>.

If you have any questions, please contact the Economic and Family Services Help Desk at (919) 334-1100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dean Simpson".

Dean Simpson, Chief
Economic and Family Services

EFS-FNSEP-23-2009
Attachments

NOTICE TO FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES RECIPIENTS

Effective October 1, 2009, the Food and Nutrition Services Program maximum gross and net income limits, the excess shelter expense deduction, and the standard deduction for households will change. These changes **may or may not** increase your monthly benefit amount you receive in October 2009.

To find out what your October balance is, call Customer Service at 1-888-622-7328 on the day you normally receive benefits. If you have any other questions about these changes, contact your local Food and Nutrition Services office at the local Department of Social Services. You have the right to request a fair hearing if you do not believe your benefits were determined correctly when this change was made.

HOW TO GET A HEARING

You have the right to a fair hearing of your case if you do not agree with our decision. You can request a fair hearing by letting your local Food and Nutrition Services office or county department of social services know of your request. You may request the hearing in person, by telephone, or in writing. The hearing may be requested by any member of your Food and Nutrition Services unit or by your representative, including an attorney obtained at your own expense. Free legal advice may be available. Contact your nearest Legal Services Office.

You have 90 calendar days from the date this notice was mailed to ask for a hearing. Unless you ask for a hearing by this date, you cannot have one.

NOTIFICACIÓN A LOS BENEFICIARIOS DE LOS SERVICIOS DE ALIMENTOS Y NUTRICIÓN

A partir del 1 de octubre de 2009, los límites máximos de ingresos brutos y netos, el exceso de deducción por gastos de vivienda, y la deducción estándar para los hogares del Programa de Servicios de Alimentos y Nutrición va a cambiar. Estos cambios pueden o no aumentar la cantidad de su beneficio mensual que recibe en octubre de 2009.

Para saber cuál es su saldo de octubre, llame a nuestra línea de Atención al Cliente al: 1-888-622-7328 en el día que normalmente reciben sus beneficios. Si usted tiene cualquier pregunta sobre estos cambios, póngase en contacto con su oficina local de Servicios de Alimentos y Nutrición en el Departamento de Servicios Sociales. Usted tiene el derecho de solicitar una audiencia justa si usted cree que sus beneficios no se determinaron correctamente cuando se hizo este cambio.

CÓMO OBTENER UNA AUDIENCIA

Usted tiene el derecho de apelar su caso si usted no está de acuerdo con nuestra decisión. Usted puede solicitar una audiencia justa notificándole a la oficina local de Servicios de Alimentos y Nutrición o al Departamento de Servicios Sociales de su condado que usted quiere hacer una solicitud de audiencia. Usted puede solicitar la audiencia en persona, por teléfono o por escrito. La audiencia puede ser solicitada por cualquier miembro de la unidad de Servicios de Alimentos y Nutrición o por su representante, incluyendo un abogado obtenido bajo su propio costo. Puede que encuentre asesoría jurídica gratuita disponible. Contáctese con su Oficina de Servicios Legales más cercana.

Usted tiene 90 días a partir de la fecha en que la notificación se envió por correo para solicitar una audiencia. A menos que usted pida una audiencia dentro de estas fechas, no se podrá tener una después.