

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

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

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Buell, Secretary

Pheon E. Beal, Director
(919) 733-3055

September 10, 2001

**Re: Notification of September
2001 Food Stamp Notice**

Dear County Director of Social Services:

**Attention: Food Stamp Supervisors
Work First Supervisors**

Attached to this letter is a sample of the notice that was sent to Food Stamp recipients regarding the increase in the Food Stamp allotments, income limits, and the excess shelter deduction. The United States Department of Agriculture issued this cost-of-living adjustment effective October 1, 2001. We also included information pertaining to LIEAP on how to get help with paying heating bills.

Laser printed notices were provided to all active food stamp benefit recipients with active cases as of September 6, 2001. An insert stuffer will be provided regarding the cost-of-living adjustment with all Notices of Action Taken for all applicants approved September 10-28, 2001.

If you have any questions about the notices, please call Sharon Barnes or Alice Smith at (919) 733-7831.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wilbert Morris".

Wilbert Morris, Chief
Economic Independence Section

SB
Attachments
EI-20-2001

Case ID Number:

Date:

NOTICE TO FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS

United States Department of Agriculture issued a cost-of-living increase in Food Stamp benefits effective October 1, 2001. This means the amount of Food Stamp benefits you receive **may** increase depending on your household's situation. The maximum gross and net income limits allowed and the excess shelter expense deduction for Food Stamp benefit recipients also increased.

Note: Please disregard this notice if your application has been denied.

If you have questions about these changes, contact your local food stamp office. 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 stamp 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 stamp 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.

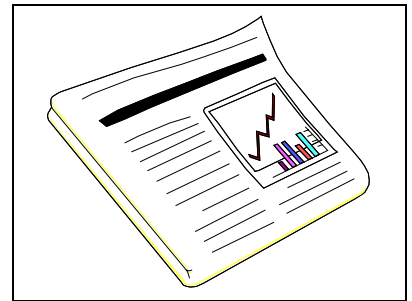
You have 90 calendar days from the date this notice was mailed to ask for a hearing. Unless you ask for a hearing by this date, you cannot have one.

**SEE OTHER SIDE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HELP WITH
PAYING YOUR HEATING BILLS**

NOTIFICATION OF LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIEAP)

To help with heating bills, the Division of Social Services will make a one-time payment in February to all households who apply and meet the requirements.

Most households that received food stamps for October may be eligible for an energy check. If you do not receive an approval notice from the County Department of Social Services, you will be required to apply at the **COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**.



The application period for the LIEAP program is November 5 through November 16. If you are elderly or disabled, you may:

- Send someone to apply for you; or
- Call the county department of social services and ask to apply.

To get more information, call your county department of social services or CARE-LINE, Information and Referral Services at 1-800-662-7030 (TTY/Voice/Spanish), Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. except holidays.

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION