



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 18, 2001

Re: Payment Accuracy Meetings

Dear County Director of Social Services:

Attention: Food Stamp Supervisors

Over the past few years, North Carolina's Food Stamp Error Rate has decreased significantly from 10.63 percent in the 1997 Federal Fiscal Year to just under 7.00 percent as of May 2001. This has been accomplished by your efforts. Each year that the State's error rate is above 6.00 percent, the State is required to complete a Food Stamp Corrective Action Plan. In the past, a major component of our plan has been to conduct payment accuracy meetings with the largest counties in the State. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss ways the State and counties can enhance our payment accuracy rate. This information is used to complete the Corrective Action Plan. The meetings also provide counties an opportunity to review error trends that are occurring across the State.

One of the suggestions from this county group has been to expand the meeting to include the entire State, instead of just the largest counties. In order to accomplish this, we are expanding the invited participants and having meetings across the State.

October is the beginning of a new federal Quality Control year. As we strive to reduce our error rate to a level that will allow us to receive enhanced funding, it is important that we begin the new year by implementing error reduction strategies that will get our error rate below 6.00 percent. Please plan to support your staff's attendance at this important meeting as we discuss error trends and analysis, error reduction techniques, and other strategies that may assist your county and the State in error reduction.

The fall meetings of the Payment Accuracy Improvement Task Group will be held in October 2001. We will be conducting three meetings across the State so that as many counties as possible will be able to participate. Each meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and adjourn at 3:00 p.m.

The meetings are scheduled as follows (Directions are attached.):

East

October 2, 2001

Martin Community College

Williamston, NC

Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell, Vance, Warren, Washington, and Wilson Counties.

Central

October 18, 2001

Cumberland County DSS

Fayetteville, NC

Alamance, Anson, Bladen, Brunswick, Caswell, Chatham, Columbus, Cumberland, Davidson, Duplin, Durham, Forsyth, Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Hoke, Johnston, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, New Hanover, Orange, Pender, Person, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Sampson, Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Wake, and Wayne Counties.

West

October 15, 2001

Catawba Memorial Hospital, AHEC Building

Hickory, NC

Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Davie, Gaston, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Polk, Rowan, Rutherford, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Union, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, and Yancey Counties.

In order to properly plan for these meetings, please complete the attached form indicating the number of individuals who will attend from your county. Please provide your response no later than September 26, 2001. The mailing address and fax number is shown on the form. Depending on the response received and space availability, we may be able to accommodate request from counties who would like to attend a location other than the one designated above.

Lunch **will not** be available for purchase at these meetings, as several restaurants are located within close proximity. Information concerning these restaurants will be made available at the meeting.

We look forward to your county's participation in this meeting. Should you have questions or concerns, please contact Gale Bullard at 919-733-7831 or your Program Integrity Representative.

Sincerely,



Wilbert R. Morris, Chief
Economic Independence Section

WM/GB/bh
Attachments
EI-21-2001