

NOTICE TO FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS

Effective January 2004, there will be a 2.1% increase in Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments. In addition, the Medicare Part B premium will increase to \$66.60. This may affect your food stamp benefits effective January 2004.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO REPORT THESE CHANGES TO YOUR CASEWORKER.

These changes may cause a change in the amount of your food stamp benefits. If you have any 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 these changes were 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.