



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

• 325 North Salisbury Street •

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Courier # 56-20-25 Fax 919-733-0645

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

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

December 3, 2004

**Re: Notification of January 2005
Mass Change**

Dear County Director of Social Services:

Attention: Food Stamp Supervisors

Food Stamp recipients will receive notification in December 2004 of the upcoming Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) mass change that is effective January 1, 2005. This change will increase the Social Security (SSA) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits by 2.7%. The Medicare Part B premium will increase to \$78.20. Laser-printed notices will be mailed to all Food Stamp recipients during the month of December. A copy of the notice is attached.

If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact your Food Assistance and Energy Programs Representative.

Sincerely,

Jane Schwartz, Chief
Economic Services Section

JS/dl
Attachment
FAEP-18-2004

NOTICE TO FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS

Effective January 2005, there will be a 2.7% increase in Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments. In addition, the Medicare Part B premium will increase to \$78.20. This may affect your food stamp benefits effective January 2005.

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.