



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

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Dempsey Benton, Secretary

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

September 16, 2008

**Re: Notification of October 2008
Food and Nutrition Services Mass
Change Notice**

Dear County Director of Social Services:

**Attention: Food and Nutrition Services Supervisors
LIEAP Supervisors**

The United States Department of Agriculture has issued the annual cost-of-living adjustment to Food and Nutrition Services benefits effective October 1, 2008. Attached is a sample of the notice that Food and Nutrition Services recipients will receive regarding the increase in the Food and Nutrition Services allotments, income limits, the excess shelter deduction, and the standard deduction for households. We have also included information pertaining to the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP).

All Food and Nutrition Services benefit recipients, with active cases as of September 4, 2008, received a laser printed notice. Inserts will be mailed with all "Notices of Action Taken" for Food and Nutrition Services applications processed from September 4, 2008 through September 30, 2008.

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact your Food and Nutrition Services & Energy Programs Representative.

Sincerely,

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

Dean Simpson, Chief
Economic Services

FNSEP-06-2008

Case ID Number:

Date:

NOTICE TO FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES RECIPIENTS

The United States Department of Agriculture issued a cost-of-living increase in Food and Nutrition Services benefits effective October 1, 2008. The Food and Nutrition Services Program allotment amounts, maximum gross and net income limits allowed, the excess shelter expense deduction, and the standard deduction for households have increased. This means the amount of Food and Nutrition Services benefits you receive **may** increase depending on your household's situation.

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

If you have questions about these changes, contact your local Food and Nutrition Services 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 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.

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

NOTIFICATION OF LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIEAP)

The Division of Social Services will issue a one-time energy check in February to all households who apply and meet the requirements of the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). This check is to help with your heating costs.

Most households that receive food and nutrition services benefits for October may be eligible for an energy check. If you do not receive an approval notice from the County Department of Social Services in October, you must apply at the **COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES** if you want to receive this benefit.



The application period for the LIEAP program is November 3 through November 15. 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