December 22, 2010


Dear County Director of Social Services:

Attention: Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors
Program Integrity Managers and Supervisors

Legislation enacted in 1973 provides for cost-of-living adjustments, or COLAs. With COLAs, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits keep pace with inflation. In general, the COLA is equal to a percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index. If there is no increase in the Consumer Price Index, then there is no COLA. In 2011, Social Security/Supplemental Security Income benefits will not have cost of living adjustments due to the decline in consumer prices and the expected low inflation.

Most Medicare beneficiaries will continue to pay the same Part B premium amount in 2011. Beneficiaries who currently have the Social Security Administration (SSA) withhold their Part B premium and have incomes of $85,000 or less ($170,000 or less for joint filers) will not have an increase in their Part B premium for 2011.

If you have any questions contact your Food and Nutrition Services and Energy Programs Regional Support Team directly via email. If the FNS Regional Support Team is unavailable, the Economic and Family Services Help Desk can be contacted at 919-334-1100 or by email at DSS.EFSHD@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Dean Simpson, Chief
Economic and Family Services

DS/tb

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