

**Case ID Number:**

**Date:**

## **NOTICE TO FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES RECIPIENTS**

On February 17, 2009, the President signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The Food and Nutrition Services Program allotment amounts for eligible recipients will increase by a minimum of 13.6% effective April 1, 2009. This means the amount of Food and Nutrition Services benefits you receive **will** increase as long as there have been no changes in your household situation.

Normally eligible recipients receive a cost of living increase in October of each year. Due to the above increase, eligible recipients **will not** see a cost of living increase in their benefits in October 2009. Anytime there is a cost of living increase, notices will be sent to eligible recipients.

We will not know how much this change will affect your benefits until April. To **find out what your April benefits are, call Customer Service at 1-888-622-7328 on the day you normally receive benefits.** If you have questions about these changes, contact your county department of social services 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.