

Case ID Number:

Date:

NOTICE TO FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS

The United States Department of Agriculture issued a cost-of-living increase in Food Stamp benefits effective October 1, 2006. The Food Stamp Program allotment amounts, maximum gross and net income limits allowed, the excess shelter expense deduction, and the standard deduction for households with five or more people have increased. This means the amount of Food Stamp 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 stamp 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 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.

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