



North Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance
Recipient Services EIS

1985 Umstead Drive – 2512 Mail Service Center - Raleigh, N.C. 27699-2512
Courier Number 56-20-06

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Nina M. Yeager, Director
(919) 857-4019

February 18, 2003

Re: MWD Outreach Letter

Dear County Director of Social Services:

An outreach effort is being conducted by the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). We recently learned of a letter being mailed by SSA and CMS advising individuals of Medicaid – Working Disabled (MWD) coverage. For eligible individuals, Medicaid pays the Medicare Part A premium. Attached is a copy of the language in the letter.

We were not aware of this letter and had no input into its text. The earned income amounts given in the letter will result in countable earned income below the 200% of poverty income limit applicable for MWD. The toll-free number to which it refers is the CARE-LINE Information and Referral Service. We have briefed the CARE-LINE and told them that persons who wish to apply for this coverage should contact their county department of social services.

This outreach effort may result in more persons contacting social services to inquire about this coverage. Eligibility policy for this coverage group is found in section MA-2150, of the Aged, Blind, and Disabled Medicaid Manual. Anyone who comes to the county department of social services requesting assistance should be evaluated for all Medicaid coverage.

Please make all Medicaid staff aware of this letter. If you or your staff have any questions regarding MWD eligibility policy, please contact your Medicaid Program Representative.

Sincerely,

Nina M. Yeager

NMY/acw

Attachment

Dear _____,

The Social Security Administration and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services are working together to let you know that you may be able to get help paying for Medicare Hospital Insurance (Part A) through special programs. To get this help you must:

- Still have a disabling Impairment, and
- Be younger than 65, and
- No longer have free Medicare Hospital Insurance (Part A), and
- Not be getting medical assistance from the North Carolina CareLine, and
- Earn \$3,039 or less a month before taxes if you are single, or earn less than \$4,065 a month before taxes if you and your spouse live together, and
- Not own things (without counting your home and one car) with a total value more than \$4,000 if you are single or \$6,000 if you are married and living together.

To ask about this help or if you have a question, call the number below and ask about ***Medicare benefits for the working disabled.***

- The North Carolina CareLine at 1-800-662-7030 (TTY users should call 1-877-452-2514).

You will need to provide information about your income. Even if your income is too high to get this help now, the amounts change every April, so you may be able to get help at a later date.

Please do not delay. This special program may help you.

Jo Anne B. Barnhart
Commissioner
Social Security Administration

Thomas A. Scully
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services