



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

April 29, 2002

**Re: SSA Outreach Mailing to Potential
Medicare Savings Programs
Candidates**

Dear County Director of Social Services:

Beginning in May, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will conduct a mandated outreach project to provide information to individuals who may be eligible for the Medicare Savings Programs. These Programs include Medicaid for Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (MQB-Q and B), Medicaid for the Working Disabled (MWD), and Qualified Individuals (MQB-E). This outreach project will not include Qualifying Individuals 2 (MQB-QI2).

SSA estimates 15 to 18 million letters will be sent randomly on a nationwide basis beginning approximately May 10. This effort will occur three times a week for 6 months. During this 6 month timeframe, an estimated half a million persons in North Carolina will receive a letter similar to the one that is attached. These letters are not supposed to be sent to persons for whom Medicaid currently pays the Medicare premium.

In the letter for North Carolina, the state's income levels should be reflected. In addition, the letter mailed to North Carolinians will have the CARE-LINE, Information and Referral Service, at 1-800-662-7030 listed as the contact if a recipient of this letter has a question. However, if a person contacts your agency and you are able to answer the person's question, please do so.

In the past when SSA has conducted its outreach effort, letters have been sent to current recipients of the Medicare Savings Programs which resulted in increased phone calls to the local agencies and at the State level. Persons who called thought they had to apply again or didn't realize they were already receiving under one of these programs. We wanted to alert you to the possibility that your staff may receive additional calls.

Since SSA often does not give us the State-specific letter until the letters have been mailed, we wanted to share this with you so you may ensure your staff knows about this outreach.

If you have any questions, please contact your Medicaid Program Representative.

Nina M. Yeager

Attachment



SOCIAL SECURITY

Beneficiary
Address
City, State Zip

Dear,

I am writing to tell you about special programs that can help you pay your Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) premium and other medical costs. These programs can help people save more than \$600 a year. To get help from these programs, you need to figure out if the money you have coming in and the value of the things you own is less than a certain amount.

First

- If you are single, and the money that comes in each month is less than \$987, or
- If you are married, and you and your spouse live together, and the combined amount of money that comes in each month is less than \$1,327,

(**NOTE: OR A STATE SPECIFIC INCOME AMOUNT**)

(If you are working you may be able to get help even if you have more income.)

And

The money you have saved and the value of the things you own is \$4,000 or less if you are single or \$6,000 or less for both you and your spouse if you live together (do **not** count the value of your home or one car),

(**NOTE: OR A STATE SPECIFIC INCOME AMOUNT**)

You should call the phone number listed below to see if you can get help.

Then Call and say that you want to apply for the *Medicare Savings Programs*.

The Department of Human Services at 1-555-555-5555 or 1-555-555-5555 if you have a special phone for the hearing or speech impaired.

There is **no** cost for this help. Call right away, even if you just have a question. And even if you have too much money coming in now, the limits change every April, so you may be able to get help later on.

Please do not put this off. These special programs can help you save more than **\$600** a year!