

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Jacobs</i>	DATE <i>8/29/09</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>000123</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>10/12/07</i>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Closed 9/14/09, letter attached.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

APPROVALS <small>(Only when prepared for director's signature)</small>	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE <small>(Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)</small>	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			



SOCIAL SECURITY

August 23, 2007

Atlanta Region
Social Security Administration
61 Forsyth St., SW
Suite 227T64
Atlanta, GA 30303-8907

Ms. Emma Forkner, Director
Bureau of Long Term Care
Department of Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

*Logi Jacobs
Emma's copy*

Dear Ms. Forkner:

The amount of the January 2008 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will not be announced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics until October 2007. The COLA is based on the increase in the consumer price index base period which ends September 30, and is established by law.

As usual, we face restrictive implementation deadlines to reprogram the COLA changes. Therefore, we would appreciate your immediate attention to this matter.

We need to know whether you will: (1) pass along the full amount of the January 2008 COLA increase to all cases (mandatory and optional); or (2) elect to maintain at least the same level of total expenditures for the period January 2008 - December 2008 as for the immediately preceding 12-month period.

Please provide us with written confirmation of your decision by October 19, 2007. Also, it would be helpful if you would FAX your response before mailing it. Questions regarding this should be directed to Barbara Schindler of the SSI Program Team at (404) 562-5836 or via email to barbara.schindler@ssa.gov. The FAX number is (404) 562-1325.

Sincerely yours,

Paul D. Barnes
Paul D. Barnes
Regional Commissioner

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AUG 29 2007

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

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Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

September 4, 2007

Mr. Paul D. Barnes
Regional Commissioner-Atlanta Region
Social Security Administration
61 Forsyth St., SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-8907

Dear Mr. Barnes:

In response to your correspondence dated August 23, 2007 regarding the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), the State of South Carolina will pass along the full amount of the January 2008 COLA increase to all cases (mandatory and optional).

If I may be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emma Forkner".

Emma Forkner
Director

EF/jp

TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

TIME : 09/04/2007 11:48

DATE, TIME
FAX NO./NAME
DURATION
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SOCIAL SECURITY

Office of the Regional Commissioner

61 Forsyth Street SW, Suite 22T64

Atlanta, GA 30303-8907

October 25, 2007

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Ms. Emma Forkner, Director
Bureau of Long Term Care
Department of Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

Dear Ms. Forkner:

C: AJ

Thank you for the fast response on how you plan to pass along the January 2008 cost of living adjustment (COLA) to your state supplement recipients. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has announced that the COLA will be 2.3 percent. The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) federal benefit rates will be \$637 for an individual and \$956 for an eligible couple. The essential person increment is \$319.

The SSI payment cap for those in Medicaid facilities (federal living arrangement D) remains at \$30 (individual)/\$60 (couple). The value of the one-third reduction (for living in another's household will be \$212.33/\$318.66. The presumed maximum value of in-kind support and maintenance computes to \$232.33/\$338.66. The resource limits remain at \$2000/\$3000.

If you need additional information about the January 2008 COLA, please contact Barbara Schindler, SSI Program Team, 404-562-5836.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Barnes

Paul D. Barnes
Regional Commissioner

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OCT 29 2007

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR