

Belit Stockfleth, SNAP and Youth Services  
Program Manager

**Authorized Signature**

**Number:** SS-IM-09-058

**Issue Date:** 11/13/2009

**Topic:** Food Benefits

**Subject:** Minimum Wage, SSB and Most Medicare Premiums Unchanged for January

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- |                                     |                               |                                     |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | All DHS employees             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | County Mental Health Directors       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Area Agencies on Aging        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Health Services                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Children, Adults and Families | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | County DD Program Managers    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Other (please specify):              |

**Message:** In January, for the first time since 2003, there will be no increase in the Oregon minimum wage. The wage will remain at \$8.40/hour due to a 1.48 percent drop in the consumer price index.

For the first time in 35 years, Social Security recipients will receive no cost-of-living increase (COLA) to their benefits. This is based on expected low inflation. SSB, SSD and SSI amounts will all remain unchanged.

Finally, about 25 percent of Medicare recipients will have a cost increase for their Part B premium. The people who will be affected are those who:

- do not have their Part B premiums withheld from their Social Security checks, or
- pay a larger Part B premium based on higher income, or
- are newly enrolled in Part B.

For these beneficiaries, the Part B premium will increase from \$96.40 to \$110.50 a month. This change should affect few DHS clients.

- ✓ About 7.5 million of the Medicare beneficiaries who do not have their Part B premiums deducted from their Social Security benefits are those whose premiums are paid for by Medicaid. These clients will not be affected; the state will continue to pay.
- ✓ The income threshold for the higher Medicare premium is \$85,000 a year for singles and \$170,000 for couples filing taxes jointly.

✓ Anyone joining Part B in 2010 will have to pay the higher Part B premiums.

For case actions effective January 1, continue to use current Oregon minimum wage, Social Security benefit and Medicare premium amounts.

*If you have any questions about this information, contact:*

<b>Contact(s):</b>	<a href="#">Policy,FS</a> or <a href="mailto:FS.Policy@state.or.us">FS.Policy@state.or.us</a>	
	(503) 945-6092	Sandy Ambrose
	(503) 945-5826	Rosanne Richard
	(503) 945-7018	Dawn Myers
	(503) 945-6220	Sarah Lambert
	(503) 945-6105	Anne Hilgers
	(503) 947-5105	Eliza Devlin
<b>Phone:</b>	(503) 945-5600	<b>Fax:</b> (503) 373-7032