



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services
Caswell Developmental Center
 2415 West Vernon Avenue, Kinston, North Carolina 28504-3321
 Courier 01-21-04

Michael F. Easley, Governor
 Dempsey Benton, Secretary
 Michael S. Lancaster, M.D. and
 Leza Wainwright, Directors

Beverly Vinson, Center Director
 Office (252) 208-4222
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August 4, 2008

AUG 25 2008

The Honorable Walter B. Jones
 United States House of Representatives
 North Carolina 3rd District
 1105-C Corporate Drive
 Greenville, North Carolina 27858-4211

Attention: William Moore

Dear Congressman Jones:

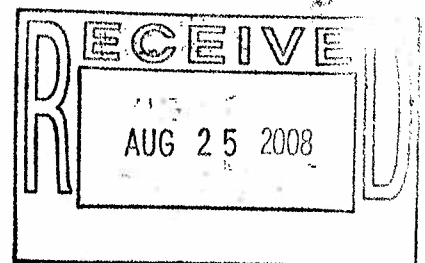
DATE REC'D _____
 CONTROL # 595
 ACTION OFFICE OTIA-Bernie
 COPIES TO: Sara, JW
Sandra
Anita
 SUSPENSE DATE 9/8
 REMARKS _____

Caswell Developmental Center, a state institution for developmentally disabled persons, is seeking your assistance in securing digital converter box coupons for our individuals who don't have access to cable/satellite dish service. Our attempts to apply for the coupons on-line on behalf of our individuals living at our Center have not been accepted by the federal government due to its position that the individuals do not meet the Census definition of a household.

Congressman Jones, most of our individuals that live at Caswell Developmental Center do not have financial resources to pay for monthly cable television services. As the result, they depend on built-in reception from their "rabbit-ears" to receive any quality of signal. We estimate that at least 260 of our 425 individuals are in need of the digital converter boxes if they are to continue receiving the new digital signal after February 17, 2009. Almost all of our individuals receive some form of governmental assistance, primarily through social security disability or Medicaid.

The living arrangements at Caswell Developmental Center provide either private or semi-private bedrooms with common living spaces. The individuals maintain their private belongings, including their televisions in their bedroom. Common living areas are provided by the Center with televisions provided for common enjoyment and use.

An Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

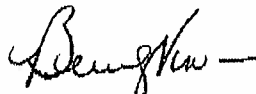


Each individual is expected to purchase their personal televisions, radios and other belongings and maintain them. In order for their television to remain compatible for digital reception, they will have to personally acquire the digital converter box. The federal coupon of \$40 (maximum value) will be of great assistance to them. Most of our individuals do not maintain sufficient cash resources to undertake this type of purchase.

Caswell Developmental Center would greatly appreciate your assistance in helping us secure the necessary digital converter coupons for our developmental disabled individuals. If you need further assistance, please contact Tim Russell, Director of Administrative Services at (252) 208-4229 or by e-mail at tim.russell@ncmail.nct.

Thank you for representing the needs of our individuals in Congress and thank you in advanced for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Beverly Vinson
Center Director