



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Social Services

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

MICHAEL BECKETTS • Assistant Secretary for Human Services

January 22, 2019

Dear County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Administrators, Managers and Supervisors
Program Integrity Supervisors and Investigators

Subject: **Updated Information** for February FNS Benefits Issued Early

Priority: **Action Required**

As indicated in the previous Dear County Director Letters we continue to receive guidance from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding the early issuance of the February Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) benefits. USDA has confirmed that Federal Regulations allow states to extend certification periods in order to release early February benefits. Counties are still required to complete the recertifications received, however, cases that the recertification is completed after the certification period was extended through February, and results in an overissuance, will **not** be charged with an overpayment and **no** claim will be established. This also includes those households that fail to return their recertification forms. This information is different than what was previous provided in the Questions and Answers (Q&A) document. An updated Q&A document has been created and is attached. Since NC FAST will show an overissuance, counties need to document the case files as to why a Program Integrity claim was not established. Cases that indicate an under issuance will need to be issued a supplement following normal procedures.

Counties are encouraged to communicate with their citizens that the benefits issued on January 20, 2019 are for the month of February. There will be no additional allotment during February and households need to consider this as they spend their benefits. Counties also need to ensure households that do exhaust their funds early are aware of community resources within the county that may be able to provide additional food assistance.

Sincerely,

David Locklear, Deputy Director

DL/bm

EFS-FNSEP-07-2019

Attachment:

Updated Federal Shutdown FNS Questions and Answers

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES • ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES

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