



Social Services
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Richard O. Brajer
Secretary

Wayne E. Black
Director

July 20, 2016

**RE: Food and Nutrition Services Employment and Training Convening
“Building Opportunities for the Future with FNS E&T”**

Dear County Director of Social Services:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) along with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is engaged in efforts to strengthen the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Employment and Training (E&T) Program. This is a main priority for the Food and Nutrition Services Program. With the recent changes regarding Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) and the improving labor market, we must focus on assisting individuals with employment services.

The Division of Social Services will host a Food and Nutrition Services Employment and Training convening on **August 22 – August 24, 2016** at the Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons, Joseph S. Koury Convention Center located at 3121 High Point Road, Greensboro, NC 27407. The theme is **“Building Opportunities for the Future with FNS E&T.”**

This is an opportunity to learn more about diverse and creative programs that can be tailored to create specific employment opportunities and resources across the state. The convening is also designed to support the FNS E&T vision statement, **“Strengthening Families and Communities by Creating Opportunities that lead to Living Wage Jobs for Sustainable Success”**.

We have invited presenters from the USDA National and Regional Offices, the Division of Workforce Solutions, Community College System, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Vocational Rehabilitation, Community Based Organizations as well as county agencies currently expanding their E&T Programs in our State.

We are requesting that staff attending include Directors, Food and Nutrition Services Program Administrators, Managers and/or Supervisors. We are looking specifically for staff that are innovators and forward thinkers on how FNS E&T could be developed in your county and how it could best serve your FNS participants.



Registration will begin at 11:00 am on Monday, August 22, 2016 with the Convening beginning at 1:00 pm. The Convening will end at noon on Wednesday, August 24, 2016.

Given there is limited space for this event, each county may send up to **three** staff to the Convening. Three rooms will be provided per county per night. If an agency does not utilize their allotted slots (3), we will attempt to accommodate those agencies that wish to send more than three staff. The rooms will be provided via direct billing to the state for each county office located at least thirty-five miles from the Sheraton Four Seasons. Attendees should not contact the hotel to make reservations; the state will provide a room list directly to the hotel. It will be necessary for the attendee to present a credit card at check-in to cover incidentals for each room. The State will pay for the room and taxes only, not including incidentals such as telephone calls, in-room movies, and room service. The State will also provide mileage reimbursement for travel to and from the Sheraton for **one** vehicle per county. A travel reimbursement form must be completed by one designated individual per county upon registration for the event. There is no registration fee. Attached is a tentative agenda for the meeting and is subject to change.

The following meals will be provided during the meeting: Breakfast August 23rd and 24th and lunch August 23rd.

Hotel check-in is at 3:00 pm on Monday, August 22nd, but attendees may be able to check-in earlier depending on the availability of the hotel.

Attached is a registration form to be completed by each county. The registration form must be completed and returned to Courtney Girton at Courtney.girton@dhhs.nc.gov as soon as possible but no later than **Monday, August 8, 2016**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Courtney at (919) 527-6317 or via email. We look forward to seeing you at this important event.

Sincerely,



David Locklear, Chief
Economic and Family Services

Attachment (2): Registration Form
Convening Schedule

EFS-FNSEP-13-2016