



Richard O. Brajer
Secretary

Wayne E. Black
Senior Director for Social Services
and County Operations

September 14, 2016

To: Dear County Director of Social Services

ATTENTION: Food and Nutrition Managers and Supervisors

**RE: Food and Nutrition Services Employment and Training
County Assessment Questionnaire**

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' and USDA's renewed focus on Food and Nutrition Services Employment and Training (FNS E&T) Program amid greater urgency for job training for FNS participants has created new momentum to build bigger, better and stronger E&T programs.

The commitment by USDA to North Carolina FNS E&T is evidenced by the selection of North Carolina to participate in the SNAP to Skills project. This project allows North Carolina to receive intensive technical assistance from the Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI). SJI has a long-standing history of providing technical assistance in FNS Employment and Training. The organization was a critical partner in building Washington State's Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET), a premier Employment and Training program in the country. SJI was also instrumental in the planning and implementation of the 2016 FNS E&T Convening.

As a result of the Convening, counties have been in contact to seek more information regarding FNS E&T or have stated intent to become a FNS E&T county as soon as possible. The Department is in the process of developing a strategic plan to determine how to most successfully "on board" new counties.

The first step in this strategy begins with each county assessing their interest, their level of commitment in building or expanding the FNS E&T program, their ability to build effective partnerships with Community Based Organizations (CBO)/Providers, and the availability of strong, job-driven workforce development programs in their county.

A **FNS E&T County Assessment Questionnaire** is attached to assist in determining the county's level of readiness and the technical assistance that will be needed. This will allow the



county and the State to better prioritize the on-boarding process. It is important that all counties complete the questionnaire no matter the level of interest at this time and regardless if you are a current E&T county.

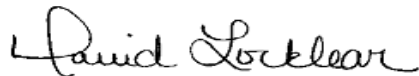
Sustainability of FNS E&T Programs in counties will require effective utilization of Third Party funding resources to provide for the non-federal sharing of funding (50/50 reimbursement).

Another step in the FNS E&T strategic plan is that current FNS E&T counties will be required to plan for their program's sustainability effective Federal Fiscal Year 2017-2018 with Third Party 50/50 reimbursement. This should be the norm as more counties become FNS E&T; since the limited 100% grant funding will most likely be required elsewhere to support FNS E&T expansion.

Your response is critical to the design and success of North Carolina's FNS E&T program. Please complete this questionnaire and return to Renee Smith at renee.smith@dhhs.nc.gov by **Wednesday, September 28, 2016**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Renee Smith at 919-527-6379.

Sincerely,



David Locklear, Chief
Economic and Family Services

Attachment (1): [FNS E&T County Assessment Questionnaire](#)

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