



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for
Human Services

August 7, 2020

Dear County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors

Subject: Additional Food Benefits Available for Food and Nutrition Services Recipients Impacted by COVID-19

Priority: Information and Action Required

The Department of Health and Human Services is partnering with Reinvestment Partners, a non-profit organization, to offer additional benefits for fruits and vegetables to current Food and Nutrition Services households who have been impacted by COVID-19. These are supplemental nutritional benefits, not Food and Nutrition Services or SNAP benefits. Participation by departments is voluntary.

Reinvestment Partners operates a program called Healthy Helping where FNS households receive an additional \$40 per month for three months to purchase fruits and vegetables at any North Carolina Food Lion store. The NC General Assembly provided \$2.5M to Reinvestment Partners' Healthy Helping program to serve approximately 20,000 FNS households affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with the Healthy Helping program. Please visit www.healthy-helping.org to learn more.

With increased unemployment and economic hardship across North Carolina, the number of Food and Nutrition Services applications are ballooning. The Department encourages county departments of social services offices to partner with Reinvestment Partners to offer our customers an extra \$40 per month for three months to purchase fruits and vegetables with Healthy Helping. Households must provide verbal permission to be enrolled in the Healthy Helping Program. If your county is interested in enrolling FNS households in this program, please contact Neal Curran, Director of Food Programs, at neal@reinvestmentpartners.org. Reinvestment Partners staff will provide more details and training on how your agency can enroll our FNS customers in this program.

Administrative cost for staff time would follow the same 50/50 reimbursement as the normal FNS administration.

If you have any, please contact me at David.Locklear@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

David Locklear, Deputy Director

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

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