



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ECONOMIC & FAMILY SERVICES

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH
SECRETARY

WAYNE E. BLACK
DIRECTOR

September 11, 2017

Dear County Director of Social Services

**Attention: Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors
Program Integrity Managers and Supervisors**

**Subject: Notification of October 2017 Food and Nutrition Services Cost-of-Living Adjustment
(COLA) Mass Change Notices**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued the annual COLA to Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) benefits effective October 1, 2017. The Food and Nutrition Services Program maximum allotment decreased, maximum gross and net income limits, excess shelter expense deduction, utility deduction, and the standard deduction for households will increase. These changes may or may not increase the monthly benefit amount households received in October 2017.

Federal regulations allow states the option of mailing notices to individual households notifying them of the possible changes in their allotment amounts. Individual notices will not be mailed to FNS households. Attached to this letter is an English and Spanish notice along with an insert of the seven languages with information on how the notice can be translated. The notice, along with the insert, is to be displayed in all waiting areas of your agency from the date received through October 31, 2017.

This will serve as notice to FNS recipients of a possible change in benefits and their right to request a hearing. This notice is available for public view on the NC Division of Social Services website at:

<http://www2.ncdhhs.gov/dss/pubnotice/index.htm>. This notice can be shared with community partners.

Submit any questions regarding this policy to the DHHS Operational Support Team (OST) via the Policy Questions link located in the Integrated Eligibility Manual, <https://economicbenefits.nc.gov>.

Sincerely,

David Locklear, Deputy Director
Economic and Family Services Section

Attachment (1)

[Notice to Food and Nutrition Services Recipient – Page 1](#)

[Notice to Food and Nutrition Services Recipients \(Spanish\) Page 2](#)

[Language Notice – Page 3](#)

EFS-FNSEP-20-2017

WWW.NCDHHS.GOV

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