



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

ROY COOPER • Governor  
MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary  
WAYNE E. BLACK • Director

**Date: September 10, 2018**

**Dear: County Directors of Social Services**

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

**Subject: Notification of October 2018-2019 Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Mass Change Notices, Basis of Issuance (BOI) Table and Standard Utility Analysis**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has made several changes to the Food and Nutrition Services Program, one or more of the following changes may affect the amount of benefits households receive.

- Allotment amounts (Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA))
  - maximum allotments for a household of four increased to \$642
  - minimum benefit did not change, the amount will remain \$15
- Maximum gross and net income limits (Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA))
- Excess shelter expense deduction (Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA))
  - shelter cap increased to \$552
- Standard deduction (Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA))
  - minimum standard deduction for household sizes 1 through 3 increased to \$164 a month
- Resources (Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA))
  - resource limit for households will remain unchanged at \$2,250 and \$3,500 households where at least one person is age 60 or older, or is disabled
- Standard Utility Allowance, Basis Utility Allowance and Telephone Utility Allowance adjustments (Standard Utility Analysis)
- Rounding calculation for income and allotment amounts (Basis of Issuance Table (BOI))

North Carolina has opted to post the notice for the 2018 COLA Mass Change opposed to mailing individual notices to FNS households. Attached is a notice in both English and Spanish along with an

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

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603  
MAILING ADDRESS: 2420 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2420  
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6300 • FAX: 919-334-1265

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

insert of the seven languages with information on how the notice can be translated. Display the notice and insert in all waiting areas of the agency from the date received through October 31, 2018.

This notice is available for public view on the NC Division of Social Services website at: <http://www2.ncdhs.gov/dss/pubnotice/index.htm>. This notice is to be shared with community partners.

Submit any questions regarding these instructions to the Operational Support Team (OST) at [DSS.Policy.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:DSS.Policy.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Locklear".

David Locklear, Deputy Director  
Economic and Family Services Section

DL/vd

EFS-FNSEP-22-2018

Attachments (3)  
Notice to Food and Nutrition Services Recipients  
Notice to Food and Nutrition Services Recipients (Spanish)  
Language Notice (insert for seven languages)