



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

March 5, 2021

Dear County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors

Subject: Timely Household Reporting of Food Loss Waiver

Priority: Information Only

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

On February 15, 2021, an EF3 tornado touched down in Brunswick County and a winter storm impacted multiple areas of the state on February 18, 2021. Power outages were reported of four hours or more for the following counties across North Carolina: **Avery, Brunswick, Caswell, Catawba Chatham, Durham, Franklin, Forsyth, Granville, Halifax, Haywood, Iredell, Jackson, Macon, New Hanover, Orange, Person, Rockingham, Rowan, Scotland, Stokes, Swain, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne and Yadkin.**

II. POLICY PROCEDURES

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved a waiver that allows current FNS recipients who suffered food loss, to report beyond the 10-day timeframe and receive replacement benefits if eligible. Recipients may report food loss and request replacement benefits until March 12, 2021 for households in Brunswick County and until March 15, 2021 for the following counties: **Avery, Caswell, Catawba Chatham, Durham, Franklin, Forsyth, Granville, Halifax, Haywood, Iredell, Jackson, Macon, New Hanover, Orange, Person, Rockingham, Rowan, Scotland, Stokes, Swain, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne and Yadkin.**

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

The replacement benefit will be for the amount of the food loss from January 2021 benefits or February 2021 benefits if the benefit was received prior to February 15, 2021 or February 18, 2021. Per FNS policy section 910, a DSS-1678, Replacement Affidavit, must be completed, signed, and retained in the record. The replacement amount must not exceed one month's allotment for the FNS unit. Households must be allowed to request replacement benefits in their county of residence or the county where they may be residing temporarily. Since most households could have potentially consumed the food purchased with their January benefits,

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
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careful consideration should be taken in determining the amount of the replacement. Accept clients signed affidavit unless questionable.

Refer to the NC FAST Job Aid: First click link to [FAST Help](#) and then click link to [Issuing Replacement Manual Benefits](#).

NC FAST has added the Brunswick County Tornado and February 2021 Ice Storm Reason Code to the benefits replacement reason drop down menu and it will be available for selection when a client requests a replacement due to the disaster. Workers must select Brunswick County Tornado and February 2021 Ice Storm, when appropriate, to ensure the correct tracking and reporting of disaster-related replacements.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy is effective March 5, 2021 for all FNS households that are active in January 2021 and February 2021. If you have any questions regarding this information, please send them to the Operational Support Team (OST) at DSS.Policy.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Carla West, Senior Director for Economic Security
Division of Social Services, Economic and Family Services Section

CLW/vd

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