



## North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services

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Courier # 56-20-25 Fax 919-733-9386

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor  
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

Sherry Bradsher, Director  
(919) 733-3055

September 28, 2009

### **Re: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Outreach Initiative**

Dear County Director of Social Services:

Attention: Food and Nutrition Services Supervisors

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) has been approved by USDA to implement its first formal FNS Outreach Plan. As we all know, many households are potentially eligible for FNS benefits, but often fail to apply because they don't know how or where to apply, or even if they may be eligible. The primary goal of this FNS outreach initiative is to break down the barriers, through education, that keep North Carolina's neediest individuals and families from receiving the nutritional benefits they need.

North Carolina's Food and Nutrition Services Outreach Plan will target and provide outreach activities to low-income individuals and families, elderly households, Hispanic households, and households with unemployed individuals.

North Carolina's principal partnership is with the Food Bank affiliates across North Carolina (Food Bank of the Albemarle, Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, Inter-faith Food Shuttle, MANNA Food Bank, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina, Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast North Carolina, and Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina).

North Carolina will also have working, outreach partnerships with The Consulate General of Mexico in Raleigh, North Carolina Division of Aging, North Carolina Employment Security Commission, and North Carolina Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (NC ACORN).

Through its collaboration with the above agencies, North Carolina intends to raise awareness of the FNS program, the eligibility criteria, the nutritional benefits available through the program, and erase myths and stigmas associated with the program.

Education is vital and will enable individuals and families to make an informed decision about whether to apply for FNS.

The Food Bank affiliates across North Carolina has been and will continue to make available FNS Applications (DSS-8207). NC ACORN and The Consulate General of Mexico in Raleigh will have applications available in their offices beginning October 2009. These agencies will provide basic information and instructions concerning the application process, the toll-free CARELINE number, as well as where to find the DSS-8207 on the internet. All outreach partners will display outreach posters and provide outreach pamphlets, brochures, and other FNS information to potentially eligible individuals and families beginning October 2009.

Households who choose to apply for FNS benefits will be responsible for completing the DSS-8207 and submitting the application in person, by an authorized representative, fax, or by mail to their local DSS agency. Upon receipt of any application, follow normal application processing procedures outlined in FNS Manual Section 300, Applications.

If you have any questions, please contact the Economic and Family Services Help Desk at 919-334-1100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dean Simpson".

Dean Simpson, Chief  
Economic and Family Services

DS/vbw