



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

Date March 08, 2021

Dear County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors

Subject: **Amended** Student of Higher Education Work Requirement Exemption

Priority: Information and Action Required

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

The COVID-19 Emergency Relief Act of 2020 allows Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) to exempt certain eligibility requirements for students of higher education during the period of January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

II. POLICY PROCEDURES

The COVID-19 Emergency Relief Act has removed the work requirement for students that meet the following conditions:

1. The student is enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education, **AND**
2. Is eligible to participate in a State or federally financed work study program during the regular school year as determined by the institution of higher education, **OR**
3. In the current academic year, has an expected family contribution of \$0 as determined by the financial aid office of the institution of higher education. The student exemption must be designated and verified by the financial aid office; client's statement cannot be taken. To enter this exemption into NC FAST:
 - Select the Work Study Check Box within the Student evidence
 - Add the end date as the last day of the Certification Period
 - Select "Federally Financed Work Study Program"
 - The client will show eligible until the end of the certification period and ineligible after the exemption is no longer available.
 - Reevaluate the case to determine if the exemption is still applicable at the end of the certification period.

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

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Note: Work requirements have not been removed for any other group of students of higher education.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

The changes are effective with all pending and new applications, recertifications, and changes processed for benefit months of January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

Submit any questions regarding this information 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

CLW/vd

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