



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 December 30, 2020

**Dear County Directors of Social Services**

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

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

**Priority:** Information and Action Required

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

The COVID-19 Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 allows Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) to exempt certain eligibility requirements for students of higher education during the period of January 1, 2021 through 30 days after the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted.

**II. POLICY PROCEDURES**

The COVID-19 Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 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.

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

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

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### 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 30 days after the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted.

Submit any questions regarding this information 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, appearing to read "David Locklear".

David Locklear, Deputy Director  
Economic and Family Services Section

DL/rc

**EFS-FNSEP-50-2020**