



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: Temporary 15% increase in FNS monthly benefits

Priority: Information and Action Required

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

The COVID-19 Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 provides an increase in FNS benefits maximum allotments to 115 percent of the Fiscal Year 2021 maximum allotments for the period of January 1 through June 30, 2021. The maximum benefit level will revert back to the Fiscal Year 2021 benefit allotments effective July 1, 2021. The benefit increase is a mass change and does not require a notice of adverse action to implement.

II. POLICY PROCEDURES

A. NC FAST will calculate the new allotment automatically for any benefits issued between January 1 and June 30, 2021 using the increased 15% maximum allotment.

Temporary Benefit increase for January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021		
FNSU Size	Maximum Allotment	115% of Maximum Allotment
1	\$204	\$234
2	\$374	\$430
3	\$535	\$616
4	\$680	\$782
5	\$807	\$929
6	\$969	\$1,114
7	\$1071	\$1,232
8	\$1224	\$1,408
Each Additional Member	\$153	\$176

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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www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6300 • FAX: 919-334-1265

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

B. This change is considered a mass change and individual notices will not be issued. A mass notice will be issued to notify FNS households of the change. Attached are notices in both English and Spanish along with a document of the seven languages with information on how the notice can be translated. These notices and document must be displayed in all areas of the agency viewable by the general public and on the agency website from the date received through March 31, 2021.

C. Program Integrity:

The 15% increase may **not** be included in any overpayments established for benefit periods between January 1 through June 30, 2021.

Example 1: An overpayment is established for February 2021. The household of two received \$430.

1. Calculate the amount the FNS unit would have received minus the 15% increase. In this example it would have been \$374 (the maximum prior to the 15% increase).
2. Calculate the correct amount the FNS unit would have received if information was correct. In this example the FNS unit was a one-person household and should have received \$204.
3. The overpayment is the difference in the two amounts. $\$374 - \$204 = \$233$.
4. Do not recoup the \$56 that was issued as a result of the temporary 15% increase.

Example 2: An overpayment is established for February 2021. The household of three received \$616.

1. Calculate the amount the FNS unit would have received minus the 15% increase. In this example it would have been \$535 (the maximum prior to the 15% increase).
2. Calculate the correct amount the FNS unit would have received if information was correct. In this example the FNS unit was ineligible.
3. The overpayment is the difference in the two amounts. $\$535 - \$0 = \$535$.
4. Do not recoup the \$81 that was issued as a result of the temporary 15% increase.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

The changes are effective with all benefits issued for months between January 1, 2021 and June 30, 2021. Due to time constraints in implementing the change in NC FAST there will be approximately 90,000 cases that will have underpayments generated. NC FAST is working to determine a method to activate those cases systematically. A report will be generated and made available in NC FAST Help to identify those cases. Caseworkers do not need to take any action as the system will automatically calculate benefits based on the period of issuance.

Submit any questions regarding this information to the Operational Support Team (OST) at dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



David Locklear, Deputy Director
Economic and Family Services Section

DL/rc

Attachments (6)

Notice to Food and Nutrition Services Recipients
Notice to Food and Nutrition Services Recipients (Spanish)
Language Notice (seven languages)
Desk Reference effective January 1 to June 30, 2021
Desk Reference Spanish effective January 1 to June 30, 2021
Call Center/Worker Response

EFS-FNSEP-51-2020