



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

Pat McCrory
Governor

Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.
Ambassador (Ret.)
Secretary DHHS

Wayne E. Black
Division Director

Date

Agency Name
Contact Person
Mailing Address
City, North Carolina

Dear _____,

The purpose of this letter is to introduce your agency to North Carolina's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Programs which are administered by the Division of Social Services. In addition we are requesting your support and collaboration in the implementation of recent legislation which impacts our respective agencies.

The TANF program for North Carolina, known as Work First, and the Food and Nutrition Services Programs are federally funded programs which share in the mission of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, to collaborate with its' partners, to protect the health and safety of all North Carolinians and provide essential human services. Work First provides parents with short-term training, cash assistance and other services to help them become employed and move toward self-sufficiency. The program also provides services to children living with non parent caretakers to prevent the children from unnecessarily entering the foster care system. Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) is a federal food assistance program. The purpose of Food and Nutrition Services is to end hunger and improve nutrition and health. It helps eligible low-income households buy the food they need for a nutritionally adequate diet.

North Carolina's administrative structure is a State supervised and county administered model. The Department of Health and Human Services/Division of Social Services provides oversight and support to the 100 county department of social service agencies that deliver services and benefits to families. This administrative structure allows each local department of social services the flexibility to develop practices and protocols for service delivery based on their unique infrastructure.

The North Carolina General Assembly introduced and passed Session Law 2013-417, known as House Bill 392 (HB 392). The law requires a county department of social services to verify whether an applicant for or a recipient of FNS benefits or Work First Program assistance has a status of fleeing felon or parole/probation violator. If such status is determined, the applicant for or recipient of assistance shall be denied or terminated from said assistance.

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The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, [Public Law 104-193](#) (PRWORA) amended both FNS and Work First program regulations to prohibit individuals from receiving assistance who are classified as fleeing felons or violating a condition of parole or probation. The Social Security Act (Sec. 408. [42 U.S.C. 608] (a) and PRWORA directs these programs to provide law enforcement officers with information about program recipients for whom there are outstanding warrants to assist in their apprehension. HB 392 supports and strengthens the ongoing efforts of the Department to ensure compliance with this mandate.

These laws established safeguards against the use or disclosure of information about applicants or recipients of assistance and define the procedures for the exchange of information with law enforcement agencies. In accordance with Federal law, if law enforcement provides the agency, in writing, with the name of the recipient and notifies the agency that the recipient is wanted in connection with a felony or violating terms of their parole or probation, FNS and Work First can provide the recipient's current address. This information can also be provided to law enforcement if the officer informs the agency that the recipient has information that is necessary for the officer to conduct their official duties and the location or apprehension of the recipient is within such official duties.

The Department is committed to ensuring that program assistance is used in a manner consistent with the requirements of HB 392 which serve to promote the integrity of the FNS and Work First programs and the responsible stewardship of public funds. Thank you for your consideration in sharing this information with your respective agencies. If you would like to speak with us or receive more information, please contact David Locklear, Acting Section Chief at 919-527-6311 or david.locklear@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Wayne E. Black

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