



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

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

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Carmen Hooker Buell, Secretary

Pheon E. Beal, Director  
(919) 733-3055

October 10, 2001

RE: Food Stamp Claims Threshold and  
Referral Backlog

Dear County Director of Social Services:

### **Attention: Program Integrity Supervisors**

As a result of a request from the Special Investigators Advisory Committee in July 2001, a request was sent to the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services, proposing two revisions to the Food Stamps Claims Management Plan: (1) that counties be allowed to establish and collect claims at lower amounts than the FNS threshold of \$125, and (2) that the new time frame requirements for establishing claims not be applied to referrals dated prior to September 1, 2001.

USDA has granted the proposal to allow counties to establish and collect claims at a lower amount with appropriate justification. North Carolina has also been granted approval to grandfather the backlog of referrals dated prior to September 1, 2001. USDA has stipulated that counties must be monitored to ensure that thresholds are applied consistently and that the backlog of referrals are worked timely.

Consequently, in the near future, counties will be requested to submit plans to justify establishing and collecting claims for less than \$125. Until these plans are requested and submitted, current policy must be followed.

Please contact your Program Integrity Representative if you have any questions regarding the information contained in this letter.

Sincerely,

Wilbert R. Morris, Chief  
Economic Independence Section

WRM/DL/slb