



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

325 North Salisbury Street • 2420 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2420
Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Sherry S. Bradsher, Director
(919) 733-3055

June 28, 2007

Re: Food Stamp Program Name Change

Dear County Director of Social Services:

The United States Department of Agriculture has, for several years, been considering a name change for the Food Stamp Program. The current name is no longer an accurate description of the program or the method by which benefits are issued. The name originated in 1939 when benefits were issued via orange and blue stamps. More recently, benefits were issued using coupon books in various denominations that looked similar to paper currency. In 1999, North Carolina changed to issuing benefits using the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card, eliminating all paper.

The North Carolina General Assembly has passed legislation to officially change the name of North Carolina's Food Stamp Program. The new name, "**Food and Nutrition Services**", more accurately reflects the program's objective to provide a resource for nutritious food and promote good health among low-income families. "**Food and Nutrition Services**" will also eliminate the stigma associated with the Food Stamp Program name, creating opportunities to promote and encourage program participation among low income families.

Program rules and regulations for eligibility and using food benefits remain the same. "**Food and Nutrition Services**" will replace Food Stamp Program references in manuals, letters, posters, brochures, forms and the Division's website over the next several months.

If you have any questions, please contact your Food Assistance and Energy Programs Representative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Schwartz".

Jane Schwartz, Chief
Economic Services Section

JS:vbw
FAEP-10-2007