



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

**ROY COOPER** • Governor

**KODY H. KINSLEY** • Secretary

**YVONNE COPELAND** • Director, Division of Child and Family Well  
Being

January 11, 2023

**Dear County Directors of Social Services**

**Attention:** Food and Nutrition Services Income Maintenance Caseworkers, Administrators, Managers and Supervisors, Program Integrity Managers, Supervisors, and Investigators

**Subject:** Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Emergency Allotments Ending

**Priority:** Information

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

On December 29, 2022, the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023](#) was signed into law. As a result, Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) emergency allotments (also referred to as “maximum allotments” or “supplements”) will be ending effective March 2023. The law terminates FNS emergency allotments after the issuance of February 2023 benefits. Thus, February 2023 will be the final month that North Carolina can issue FNS emergency allotments.

Effective March 2023, FNS benefits will go back to regular monthly benefit amounts issued prior to the pandemic. Beneficiaries will continue to receive their regular monthly benefit amounts in March 2023 based on a person’s or household’s current eligibility, income, household size and other federal eligibility requirements.

If updates were made retroactively to a household’s case for February 2023 or prior, the FNS emergency allotment will be adjusted along with the normal monthly allotment, as appropriate. NC FAST will continue to run monthly catch-up batches to ensure households receive the correct emergency allotment amounts.

NCDHHS will issue general notices to households that have active FNS cases regarding the end of FNS emergency allotments. Attached are notices that will be sent to all active FNS recipients 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 should be displayed in all areas of the agency viewable by the general public and on the agency website from the date received through April 30, 2023.

NCDHHS will also issue a press release regarding the ending of FNS emergency allotments on January 12, 2023.

**NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING**

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603  
MAILING ADDRESS: 2416 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2420  
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6300 • FAX: 919-334-1265

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NCDHHS has developed Frequently Asked Questions that can be used as a resource by county DSS agencies and other partners that may receive questions regarding the end of emergency allotments.

### **FNS BENEFIT AMOUNTS**

FNS recipients can view their regular monthly FNS benefit amount and their emergency allotment amount online at [www.ebtedge.com](http://www.ebtedge.com). Regular monthly FNS benefits are issued between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of every month based on the last digit of the recipient's SSN, while emergency allotments are issued on or after the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month. There are three ways to check FNS balance and transaction history:

- Visit [www.ebtedge.com](http://www.ebtedge.com). Click on More Information under EBT Cardholder. You will be prompted to login and/or register your account.
- Download and use the **EBT Edge** mobile app (can be downloaded on Google Play or Apple Store).
- Contact the North Carolina **EBT Call Center at 1-888-622-7328** and follow the prompts.

Please advise households to keep their FNS information up to date to help them receive the greatest benefit they are eligible for.

### **HEARINGS**

Households do not have the right to request a fair hearing solely to dispute the end of FNS emergency allotments, as States were instructed by the federal government to end emergency allotments. Disputes that are solely regarding the end of the emergency allotment will be denied and the State is not obligated to continue benefits at the previous level per federal regulation 7 CFR 271.1(f). Households may request a fair hearing only if the issue being contested is that FNS eligibility or benefits were improperly computed or that Federal law or regulation is being misapplied or misinterpreted by the State agency (federal regulation 7 CFR 273.15(k)(1)).

Households have the right to request a fair hearing 90 calendar days from March 1, 2023 (through May 30, 2023), to ask for a hearing. Households can request a fair hearing by letting their local county department of social services know of the request. Hearings may be requested in person, by telephone, or in writing. The hearing may be requested by any member of the Food and Nutrition Services unit or by a representative, including an attorney obtained at the household's own expense.

### **RESOURCES**

Please provide the following resources to help FNS households that may need additional food assistance after FNS emergency allotments end.

- **General:** North Carolina State Nutrition Action Coalition, [www.ncdhhs.gov/foodresources](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/foodresources), and the NC Food and Nutrition Resource Guide in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- **WIC:** Households with children under 5 or women who are pregnant/breastfeeding may be eligible for the Supplemental Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants,

and Children (WIC). Learn more about WIC ([www.ncdhhs.gov/ncwic](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/ncwic)) and complete a WIC referral online ([www.ncdhhs.gov/ncwicreferral](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/ncwicreferral)),

- **NC211:** Visit [www.nc211.org](http://www.nc211.org) or dial 211 to be connected to community resources,
- **Food Banks:** Find [local Food Banks](#) in your community ([www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank](http://www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank)).

If you have any questions, please submit them to the Continuous Quality Improvement Team (CQI) [dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,



**Madhu Vulimiri, MPP**  
Deputy Director  
Division of Child and Family Well-Being

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**Attachment (4)**  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)  
Notice for Waivers Ended (English)  
Notice for Waivers Ended (Spanish)  
Seven languages

**EFS-FNSEP-04-2023**