



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 27, 2023

Dear County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Food and Nutrition Services Managers, Supervisors and Income Maintenance Caseworkers

Subject: **February 2023** Automated Supplements for active FNS households

Priority: Information Only

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

On March 18, 2020, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 was signed to provide for the issuance of emergency allotment supplements based on a public health emergency declaration by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act related to an outbreak of COVID-19, and when a State has also issued an emergency or disaster declaration. North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) elected to take this option and previously issued FNS supplements up to the maximum of the household's monthly benefit amount for March 2020 through **January 2023**.

As previously announced in the [Dear County Director Letter, December 29, 2022](#), the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023](#) was signed into law. Consequently, the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) emergency allotments (automated supplements) will be ending effective March 2023. The law terminates FNS emergency allotments (automated supplements) after the issuance of February 2023 benefits. Therefore, February 2023 will be the final month that North Carolina can issue FNS emergency allotments up to the maximum of the household's monthly benefit amount.

II. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

A. AUTOMATED SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFITS:

Automated supplements will be issued for **February 2023** to all FNS recipients in North Carolina up to the maximum allotment for their household size using the following guidelines:

1. The supplement is the difference between the household's actual **February 2023** benefits and the maximum allotment for their household size.

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

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Example: A household of 3 received an allotment of \$200 for February 2023. The maximum allotment for a household of 3 is \$740. The household will be issued a supplement of \$540 ($\$740 - \$200 = \540) for February 2023.

- Households who already receive the maximum allotment and did not get a supplement, will receive \$95 in emergency allotment.

Example: Household's regular allotment amount is \$234. The household has received the maximum allotment. Because the difference is \$0 and less than \$95, the household will receive an emergency allotment of \$95.

Maximum allotment	\$234
Minus Regular allotment	\$234
Difference	<u>\$ 0</u>

The household will receive supplement(s) totaling \$95

- The household size will not include ineligible and disqualified members.

Example: A household of 3, including one ineligible member, received an allotment of \$100 for February 2023. The maximum allotment for a household size of 2 is \$516. The household would be issued a supplement of \$416 ($\$516 - \$100 = \416) for February 2023.

- Households that were ineligible in February 2023 will not receive a supplement for the month as they were ineligible.
- Households that were eligible for a prorated allotment of \$0 in February 2023 will receive a supplement for the prorated month.

Example: A household of 3 received a prorated allotment of \$0 for February 2023. The maximum allotment for a household of 3 is \$740. The household will be issued a supplement of \$740 ($\$740 - \$0 = \740) for February 2023.

B. NC FAST SUPPLEMENT SCHEDULE:

NC FAST will automatically issue the February supplements to active FNS households beginning February 22, 2023. The supplements will be staggered daily until all households have been supplemented. **Please note that it will take 8 to 10 days to complete the full issuance of emergency allotments, instead of the previous 5 to 7 days.** If you receive calls from clients inquiring about the timing of their emergency allotments, please let them know they will all be issued by the end of the month.

For all applications and recertifications approved subsequent to the February supplement dates, NC FAST will continue to run monthly batches to ensure they are supplemented to the max allotment for February 2023.

As a reminder, some cases are not automatically issued supplemental payments to the max allotment. For all cases that are not issued a payment, tasks are generated for the payments that are in "Cancelled" or not "fully processed" status. A list of the cases is also provided to the counties by CQI. Review tasks and the list of cases

CQI provides in a timely manner. Make the necessary changes to ensure all active FNS households are automatically reissued payments if the case is eligible for the reissuance.

Counties should also ensure that there is an EBT Card associated with the FNS case. If there is NOT an EBT Card associated with the FNS case, reissue the EBT card to the correct address. Go to the Product Delivery Case under the financials tab and reissue the benefits that are in cancelled status.

C. Important links regarding end of emergency allotments:

1. Client facing webpage (English):
<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/information/human-services/changes-food-and-nutrition-services>
2. Client facing webpage (Spanish): <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/cambios-en-los-servicios-de-alimentacion-y-nutricion>
3. Press release (English and Spanish):
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/2023/01/12/extra-federal-food-benefits-due-covid-19-will-end-march>
4. DCDL: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/media/18799/download?attachment>
5. FAQ for county staff:
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/media/18780/download?attachment>
6. Notice to beneficiaries (English & Spanish):
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/media/18781/download?attachment>
7. Multilanguage notice:
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/media/18782/download?attachment>
8. Social media – Twitter post:
<https://twitter.com/ncdhhs/status/1616154280385183764>
9. NCDHHS Food and Nutrition Resources:
www.ncdhhs.gov/foodresources
10. Registration link for Food and Nutrition Security Summit (March 2, 1-4pm): [2023 Food & Nutrition Security Summit - March 2, 2023 \(office.com\)](https://2023foodandnutritionsecuritysummit.office.com)
11. Registration link for Food and Nutrition Security Summit (March 3, 9am-12pm): [2023 Food & Nutrition Security Summit- March 3, 2023 \(office.com\)](https://2023foodandnutritionsecuritysummit.office.com)

III. EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy is effective **February 1, 2023**, for all FNS households that are active in **February 2023**. If you have any questions, please submit them to the Continuous Quality Improvement Team (CQI) dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



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

MV/vd

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