

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY . Secretary

SUSAN G. OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for Human Services

March 01, 2022

Dear County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Food and Nutrition Services, Refugee, Work First, and Child Support Administrators,

Managers and Supervisors

Subject: Guidebook for Waivers Ending

Priority: Information Only

On January 16, 2022, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra extended the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) for an additional 90 days (until April 16, 2022). Any COVID-19 waivers that are in place and have not been made permanent by our federal partners will end 30 days following the end of the PHE. North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) has not received guidance from our federal partners as to any additional extensions of the PHE or the waivers. Further guidance will be provided as needed and as more information is received from our federal partners.

The attached guidebook has been developed by NCDHHS to provide guidance in preparing for administering Social Service programs including Food and Nutrition Services (FNS), Work First, Refugee Assistance, and Child Support Services after the COVID-19 waivers end. We have included transitioning strategies, policy sections for reference, and resources to assist families.

In addition to the guidebook, we are creating a new report for the Food and Nutrition Services program titled "FNS Max Allotments with Benefit Breakdown" to assist counties in identifying FNS households that may be critically impacted when the waivers end. Our hope is that this report will provide important information and assist with any outreach activities counties may elect to perform to assist households impacted by a reduction or termination of Food and Nutrition Services supplemental benefits up to the maximum when waivers end. The report will be posted in <u>FAST Help</u> on March 4th.

Please let us know if there are additional reports that you might find helpful as we work together to support the citizens of North Carolina. Thank you for all that you do to provide these services to those who need it the most.

Sincerely,

Carla West, Senior Director for Economic Security

Division of Social Services, Economic and Family Services Section

CLW/vd

Attachment (1) Guidebook for Waivers Endings

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Carle & West