

NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

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

October 01, 2024

Dear County Directors of Social Services

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

Subject: Timely Household Reporting of Food Loss Waiver

Priority: Information and Action

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

On September 16, 2024, Tropical Cyclone Eight impacted Brunswick County causing severe flooding in the southeastern part of the state that left many areas flooded, and numerous routes impassable due to high water and road damage.

II. POLICY PROCEDURES

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved a waiver that allows current FNS recipients who suffered food loss to report beyond the 10-day timeframe and receive replacement benefits if eligible. The timeframe for recipients to report food loss and request replacement benefits has been extended, **September 16, 2024, through October 16, 2024**, for households in the following counties: **Brunswick**.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

The replacement benefits will be for the amount of food loss from August 2024 if benefits were received prior to September 16, 2024. Per FNS policy section 910, a DSS-1678 Replacement Affidavit must be completed, signed, and retained in the record. The replacement amount must not exceed one month's allotment for the FNS unit. Households must be allowed to request replacement benefits in their county of residence or the county where they may be residing temporarily. Since most households could have potentially consumed the food purchased with their August benefits, careful consideration should be taken in determining the amount of the replacement. Counties should accept clients signed affidavit unless questionable.

Example: The replacement amount must not exceed the monthly allotment for the FNS unit. If a FNSU of 4 receives \$325 the replacement amount must not exceed over \$325.

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

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Refer to the NC FAST Job Aid: First click link to [FAST Help](#) and then click link to [Issuing Replacement Manual Benefits](#).

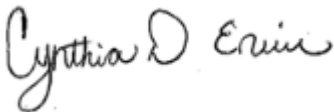
NC FAST has added **Disaster Name: Brunswick, Tropical Cyclone Eight to the New Replacement/Manual Benefits Evidence. The Disaster Name must be selected when the Replacement Reason is Food Destroyed in a Disaster.** Workers must select **Food Destroyed in a Disaster: Brunswick, Tropical Cyclone Eight** when appropriate to ensure the correct tracking and reporting of disaster-related replacements. All replacements must be keyed and completed by October 31, 2024, for **Brunswick**. NC FAST will disable these selections and replacements will not be keyed after October 31, 2024.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy is effective immediately for all FNS households in Brunswick County that are active in August 2024 and September 2024.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please send them to the Continuous Quality Improvement Support (CQIS) dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Ervin, Assistance Director,
Division of Child and Family Well-Being

CE/vb

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