



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 28, 2024

**Dear County Directors of Social Services**

**Attention:** Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors

**Subject:** **Extended** Hot Foods Waiver

**Priority:** Information Only

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

On September 26, 2024, the remnants of Tropical Storm Helene caused severe flooding and power outages in the western part of North Carolina. The need for hot prepared food products is critical for those most adversely impacted and who are temporarily unable to prepare hot foods. North Carolina requested a statewide waiver to allow hot foods and hot food products prepared for immediate consumption to be considered “eligible foods” as long as they are purchased in FNS-authorized retail food stores.

**II. POLICY PROCEDURES**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved a Hot Food Waiver for all Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) recipients in North Carolina. This waiver allows any FNS recipient to purchase hot prepared food from EBT-authorized retailers anywhere in North Carolina. This does not include restaurants or other non-EBT authorized retailers. USDA will provide notification to retailers, and a state press release will be made available. The Department is in communication with the North Carolina Retail Merchants Association to ensure all authorized retailers are aware of this waiver. Social media, press releases, other media outlets and state partners will be used to notify FNS recipients of this waiver.

**III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS**

The Hot Food Waiver is effective October 4, 2024 and will end on **December 4, 2024**. If you have any questions regarding this information, please send them to the Continuous Quality Improvement Specialist (CQIS) [dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,

CE/vb

**EFS-FNSEP-29-2024**

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