



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for
Human Services

December 19, 2022

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 for Moore County

Priority: Information Only

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

On December 14, 2022, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved North Carolina's waiver request to waive the 10-day reporting requirement for replacement of food purchased with FNS benefits, as a result of vandalism to an electronic substation on December 3, 2022 that resulted in sustained power outages in Moore County. The waiver will allow for more timely and efficient replacement of benefits via an automated process.

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, **through January 3, 2023**, for households in **Moore County**.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

The replacement benefits will be for the amount of food loss from November 2022 and December 2022 if benefits were received on or before December 3, 2022. Per FNS policy section [FNS 905 Replacement of Authorized Issuance](#), 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 November 2022 benefits, careful consideration should be taken in determining the amount of the replacement. Counties should accept clients signed affidavit unless questionable.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES • ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES

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

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

On December 16, 2022, NC FAST added **Power Outage in Moore County** as a benefits replacement reason in the drop down menu that can be selected when a client requests a replacement due to the Moore County power outage.

Workers must select Moore County, when appropriate, to ensure the correct tracking and reporting of disaster-related replacements. If manual benefits have already been keyed into NC FAST prior to receiving this DCDL, caseworkers will not need to change the replacement reason. Going forward, caseworkers should use Power Outage in Moore County as the replacement reason.

All replacements for Moore County must be keyed and completed by January 6, 2023. NC FAST will disable these selections and replacements will not be keyed after January 6, 2023.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy is effective December 19, 2022 for all FNS households that are active and eligible for FNS benefits during the requested time period. If you have any questions, please contact the Continuous Quality Improvement <mailto:Team> (CQI) dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov or for program integrity questions please contact dss.pi.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



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

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