

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services

• 325 North Salisbury Street •

2420 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2420

Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary Pheon E. Beal, Director (919) 733-3055

May 7, 2004

RE: Disaster Food Stamp Planning

Dear County Director of Social Services:

In the event of a hurricane, tornado or other event that affects our citizens, operation of a successful Disaster Food Stamp Program is dependent upon adequate planning and preparation at both the state and local levels. Disaster Food Stamp planning meetings will be conducted in early June to help you prepare for a disaster situation. Topics for the meeting will include a review of policy and procedures, automation and logistical planning considerations. We also will reflect back on the most recent disaster and hear from counties that experienced the delivery of disaster benefits from Isabel. We would like for counties that administered the Disaster Food Stamp Program for Isabel to be prepared to share some best practices which your counties used during this disaster. You may wish to review and bring to the meeting your Disaster Food Stamp Manual published in April 2002. The Disaster Food Stamp Manual is also located online at <u>www.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals</u> in the Economic Services subdirectory.

Meetings will be held in the following locations:

Tuesday, June 1, 2004 Rowan Public Library, 201 W. Fisher St., Salisbury, N.C.

Tuesday, June 15, 2004 Pitt County Cooperative Extension Center, 403 Government Cir., Greenville, N.C.

Each meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end by 3:00 p.m. Directions to the meeting sites are attached.

We strongly encourage your county's participation as we plan for the hurricane season. If you have any questions, please contact David Locklear at 919-733-7831. Please respond with the number attending from your county by **Friday, May 28, 2004**.

Sincerely,

Jane Schwartz, Chief Economic Services Section

Attachment FAEP-08-2004