

# CASEWORKER DESK REFERENCE (Effective January 1, 2026)

(Cost of Living (COLA) / Homeless Shelter Deduction/ Utility Expenses Effective October 1, 2025)

FNSU SIZE	130% MAX INCOME LIMITS	100% MAX INCOME LIMIT	200% CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY MAXIMUM INCOME LIMIT	MAXIMUM ALLOTMENT	FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES DEDUCTIONS									
	Gross	Net	Gross		Effective 10/01/2025	SUA	BUA	TUA	STANDARD DEDUCTION					
1	\$1,696	\$1,305	\$2,610	\$298	\$637	\$392	\$42	\$209						
2	\$2,292	\$1,763	\$3,526	\$546	\$699	\$431	\$42	\$209						
3	\$2,888	\$2,221	\$4,442	\$785	\$768	\$474	\$42	\$209						
4	\$3,483	\$2,680	\$5,360	\$994	\$837	\$518	\$42	\$223						
5	\$4,079	\$3,138	\$6,276	\$1,183	\$912	\$564	\$42	\$261						
6	\$4,675	\$3,596	\$7,192	\$1,421	\$912	\$564	\$42	\$299						
7	\$5,271	\$4,055	\$8,110	\$1,571	\$912	\$564	\$42	\$299						
8	\$5,867	\$4,513	\$9,026	\$1,789	\$912	\$564	\$42	\$299						
Each Additional Member	(+\$596)	(+\$459)	(+\$918)	(+\$218)	Minimum Allotment = \$24 (for eligible 1 – 2-person FNSU's)									
<b>SNAP (Effective 10-1-2025)</b>														
<b>Rent / Mortgage/Lot Rent = \$0 Allotment amount \$104</b>			<b>Rent / Mortgage/Lot Rent ≤ \$0.01-\$199.99 Allotment amount \$145</b>		<b>Rent / Mortgage/Lot Rent ≤ \$200 or greater Allotment amount \$170</b>									
<b>ADDITIONAL FNS DEDUCTIONS</b>														
<b>Earned Income Deduction</b>		20%												
<b>Dependent Care Deduction</b>		Actual incurred expense												
<b>Excess Shelter Deduction Cap</b>		\$744 for FNSU's without a Specified Person												
<b>Homeless Shelter Deduction</b>		\$ 198.99												
<b>FNS RESOURCE LIMITS</b>				<b>Max. SSI or SSI &amp; SSA/Other Income</b>										
<b>Categorically Eligible FNSU</b>			<b>NONE</b>	<b>Single Person</b>	<b>October (2025) \$967</b>	<b>January (2026) \$994</b>								
<b>FNSU's with a member age 60/older, or disabled</b>			\$4,500	<b>Couple</b>	\$1,450	\$1,491								
<b>All Other FNSU's</b>			\$3,000	<b>Medicare Premium</b>	\$185	\$202.90								
<b>FNS CONVERSION OF INCOME/EXPENSES TO A MONTHLY AMOUNT</b>														
<b>Weekly</b>				x 4.3										
<b>Biweekly (every two weeks)</b>				x 2.15										
<b>Semi-monthly (twice per month)</b>				x 2										

**Note: Standard Deduction** - Do not include ineligible members or non-household members in the calculation of the Standard Deduction.

**SUA or BUA** - Do not include non-household members in the calculation of the SUA or BUA.

Categorically eligible households are not subject to the resource, gross and net income limits. Non-categorically eligible households are subject to resource, gross and net income limits. Non-categorically eligible households that contain specified individuals are only subject to the resource and net income limits.

## FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES TIME STANDARDS

### APPLICATIONS

### Recipient must receive benefits no later than:

**Emergency Service**

**7th calendar day**

**Normal Processing**

**30th calendar day**

Application can be reopened if verifications are provided by the 60th day from the date of application.

Do not deny an application before the 30<sup>th</sup> day for failure to provide verification. If the 30<sup>th</sup> day falls on a weekend or a holiday, deny the application on the next workday.

Benefits must be **received** by the 7<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> day – thus the application must be processed by the **4th calendar day for expedited services / 25th calendar day for normal**

### APPLICATIONS FOR RECERTIFICATION

### Case must be completed by:

**Timely Recerts** (submitted by 15<sup>th</sup>)

**Last workday of the month**

**Untimely Recerts** (submitted between 16<sup>th</sup> and last day of the month)

**30th calendar day**

**\*Late Recerts**

**7th / 30th calendar day**

(Late Recert is an application that is filed in the month after the last month of the certification period)

### Timely / Untimely Recertifications:

- If an application for recertification (timely and untimely) is denied for failure to complete an interview or provide required verification, it may be reopened if the interview is completed and all verifications are provided by the 30<sup>th</sup> day following the end of the certification period.
- If the FNSU completes the interview and provides the required verifications by the 30<sup>th</sup> day, process the case using the original date of application, do not prorate benefits.
- If the FNSU completes the interview and provides the required verifications after the 30th day of the date of application but by the 30th of the month after the end of the certification period, then the case may be reopened. Use the date the required verification is received as the date of application and prorate the benefits.

### Late Recertifications:

- Do not deny a late recert before the 30<sup>th</sup> day for failure to provide verification. If the 30<sup>th</sup> day falls on a weekend or a holiday, deny the application on the next workday.
- Do not reopen / approve a late recert if the required verifications are provided after the 30<sup>th</sup> day.

### Notices

DSS-8650 (Request for Information)

10 calendar days to return info

Notice of Adverse Action

10 workdays before action taken

### Hearing Requests

To receive continued benefits

10 workdays

NO continued benefits

90 calendar days

## **THE FOLLOWING HOUSEHOLDS ARE CATEGORICALLY ELIGIBLE**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All members receive SSI</li><li>• All members receive WFFA Cash / Work First Benefits</li><li>• A combination of the above</li><li>• At least one member receives WFFA Services</li><li>• NC FAST indicates Categorically Eligible “Pass” - The household’s total income is at or below 200% of the poverty level &amp; the HH received info about TANF funded services.</li></ul>
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## **THE FOLLOWING HOUSEHOLDS ARE NOT CATEGORICALLY ELIGIBLE**

### **Any member (or head of household as indicated) is disqualified for:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An intentional program violation (IPV).</li><li>• A conviction of a drug felony since August 23, 1996, for an act committed on or after August 23, 1996, or</li><li>• (Head of household) Failing to comply with work requirements</li></ul>
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