

NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEVPUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

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

May 26, 2026

Attention: FNS Program Managers, Eligibility Supervisors, and County Communications Staff

Subject: SNAP Communications Resources Available for County Use: H.R. 1 Work Requirements and Noncitizen Eligibility Changes

Priority: Information

H.R. 1 (Public Law 119-21), made two significant changes to the eligibility rules for the Food and Nutrition Services (SNAP) program that affect North Carolina households:

- **ABAWD Work Requirements, effective December 1, 2025.** Work requirements for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents now apply to adults ages 18 through 64, with a three-month time limit in a 36-month period for those who do not meet the requirement or qualify for an exemption.

Previously, the requirement applied to adults ages 18 through 54, and adults living in a household with a child under 18 were exempt. H.R. 1 raised the upper age to 64 and lowered that child-exemption age to under 14, bringing a significantly larger group of adults under the rule.

- **Noncitizen Eligibility Changes, effective February 1, 2026.** SNAP eligibility is now limited to U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, Lawful Permanent Residents, Cuban and Haitian Entrants, and citizens of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau (COFA migrants).

Refugees, asylees, people granted withholding of removal, and most parolees and other humanitarian categories were previously eligible; they no longer qualify based on those statuses and can regain eligibility only after adjusting to lawful permanent resident status.

To support counties and stakeholders in communicating these changes accurately and consistently, NCDHHS developed and published public-facing communications materials.

Online Resource Hubs

NCDHHS has published two resource hubs with information for SNAP participants and stakeholders, and the public:

- ABAWD Work Requirements: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/child-and-family-well-being/food-and-nutrition-services-food-stamps/able-bodied-adults-without-dependents-abawds>
- SNAP Noncitizen Eligibility: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/child-and-family-well-being/food-and-nutrition-services-food-stamps/snap-noncitizen-eligibility>

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

LOCATION: 1915 Health Services Way, Raleigh, NC 27607
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www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-707-5659 • FAX: 984-236-8205

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Each hub includes printable flyers, social media graphics, frequently asked questions, plain-language explanations of the policy, and resource and contact information. All content is available in English and Spanish.

Specifically, the online resource hubs include the following materials that may help support County agencies with their ongoing outreach and engagement with local stakeholders and community members:

- Social media graphics with ready-to-post social media captions in English and Spanish, which can be linked back to ncdhhs.gov/fns.
- Print-ready flyers (PDF) in English and Spanish addressing:
 - Navigating SNAP Work Requirements
 - Are You Exempt from SNAP Work Requirements?
 - What You Need to Know: SNAP Work Requirements
 - SNAP Noncitizen Eligibility
 - SNAP Noncitizen Eligibility FAQs

Recommended County Agency Actions

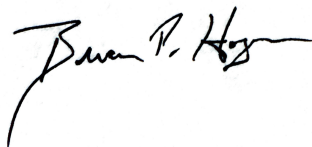
County agencies are encouraged to:

- Display the flyers in county DSS lobbies, waiting areas, and at outreach events, and provide them to applicants and recipients in affected households.
- Post the social media graphics on county websites and social media accounts, using the captions provided. Captions may be tailored to local context; please keep the link to ncdhhs.gov/fns.
- Share the materials and promote with community partners, including food banks and faith-based organizations so they can reinforce consistent messaging.

We hope your awareness of these materials will help support your work engaging with the community members you serve.

If you have any questions regarding this communications toolkit or the underlying policy changes, please contact the Continuous Quality Improvement Specialist (CQIS) at dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Brian P. Hogan
Deputy Director of Nutrition
Division of Child and Family Well-Being

Attachment: SNAP Communications Resources for County and Stakeholder Use, H.R. 1 Work Requirements and Noncitizen Eligibility