

ROY COOPER • Governor KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary YVONNE COPELAND • Director, Division of Child and Family Well Being

Date: June 29, 2022

Dear County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Income Maintenance Caseworkers, Managers and Supervisors

Subject: COVID-19 Food and Nutrition Services Waivers Approved for Extension

Priority: Information and Action

The Continuing Appropriations Act of 2021 and Families First Coronavirus Response Act allows states the option to continue certain waivers that have been approved during the Covid-19 pandemic. North Carolina requested to extend the following waivers which have been approved for a period of three months (July, August, and September 2022):

- Extend Six-Month Certification Periods
- Waive Interview Requirements
- Telephonic Signature Waiver
- Suspend Claims Activity
- Waive Fair Hearing Timeframes
- Extend Administrative Disqualification Hearing (ADH) Timeframes

Due to the uncertainty of approval for continuation of the waivers, counties are strongly encouraged to begin refresher training for staff and planning to resume normal policy requirements effective with the end date of each waiver extension.

We encourage counties to use the previously issued Guidebook which includes transitioning strategies, policy sections for reference, and resources to assist families after waivers end for FNS and other social services programs. The Guidebook has been updated to reflect these new timelines. We recommend reviewing the Guidebook for more details on what each of these waivers means and to understand the new timelines for each waiver.

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

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We will continue to pursue any available waivers offered by USDA and will continue to keep you informed about updates related to FNS waivers.

If you have any questions, please submit them to the Continuous Quality Improvement Team (CQI) <u>dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Madhu Vulimini

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

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Carla West Senior Director for Economic Security Division of Social Services, Economic and Family Services Section

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Attachment (1) Guidebook

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