



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

**ROY COOPER** • Governor

**KODY H. KINSLEY** • Secretary

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

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:** **Automated Mass Replacement Waiver**

**Priority:** Information Only

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

On December 14, 2022, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved North Carolina's waiver request to issue mass replacement of FNS benefits to households in Moore County who were impacted by power outages as a result of vandalism to an electrical substation that occurred on December 3, 2022. This waiver allows households in Moore County to receive replacement FNS benefits without requiring households to report loss of food or provide verification of the loss. The waiver will allow for more timely and efficient replacement of benefits via an automated process.

USDA directed North Carolina to determine the amount of replacement benefits based on estimates of the portion of the food purchased with monthly benefits that had not yet been consumed at the time of the disaster and was therefore subject to loss. USDA derives a benefit replacement estimate by assuming a reasonable usage of benefits and consumption of food over the course of the month and estimates how much food may have been lost by the average household. This estimate considers whether loss is limited to perishables due to a power outage.

North Carolina provided USDA with available documentation of power outages for Moore County. North Carolina was approved to automatically replace the percentage of benefits based on the following issuance dates:

**Requirements:**

USDA is authorizing the mass replacement for FNS benefits of the following percentages and dates:

- 60 percent of FNS benefits for households that were issued from November 26, 2022 through December 3, 2022;
- 45 percent of FNS benefits for households that were issued from November 18, 2022 through November 25, 2022;
- 30 percent of FNS benefits for households that were issued from November 11, 2022 through November 17, 2022;

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

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- 15 percent of FNS benefits for households that were issued from November 4, 2022 through November 10, 2022; and
- 45 percent of FNS benefits for Alcohol Drug Treatment Centers (ADTC) that were issued for November 16, 2022 **and** December 1, 2022.

## II. POLICY PROCEDURES

NCFAST will automatically issue the replacements for **Moore County** via a batch process on December 19, 2022. These benefits will be available to households beginning December 20-22, 2022. If a household already requested and was approved for a manual November and December 2022 replacement, they will not be included in the mass replacement batch.

If a household submits a manual affidavit claiming a loss greater than the percentages list above issued in the mass replacement batch, the household is only entitled to receive the difference between the requested amount and the amount previously replaced. Accept the client's statement unless questionable. **Replacement benefits cannot exceed the maximum monthly allotment for the household.**

## III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

### **Affidavits received, but not keyed, prior to December 19, 2022:**

Determine if the requested manual replacement amount is more than the percentages **listed in the bullets above**, of the household's November and December benefits.

- If the amount on the affidavit is less than or equal to the percentages listed above, in NC FAST, document the affidavit that the client is in Moore County and received one of the percentages **listed in the bullets above** mass replacement benefits and is not eligible for additional replacement benefits.
- If the amount on the affidavit is more than the percentages **listed in the bullets above** issue the difference between the requested amount and the percentage already issued through the mass replacement. **Replacement benefits cannot exceed the maximum monthly allotment for the household.**

## IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy is effective December 19, 2022, for all FNS households that are active in November 4, through December 3, 2022.

If you have any questions, please contact [dss.pi.questions@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:dss.pi.questions@dhhs.nc.gov) for assistance or the Continuous Quality Improvement Team (CQI) [dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,



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

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