

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for Human Services

October 29, 2021

Dear County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors

Subject: October Issuance of Simplified Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)

Priority: Information Only

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provided the allotment amounts for the Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA). The maximum SNAP allotment levels increased for households currently participating in the North Carolina Combined Application Project (NCCAP) demonstration project. The NCCAP is a partnership between the Social Security Administration (SSA), the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), and the State of North Carolina to streamline application procedures for individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The project is designed to strengthen access to nutrition benefits for individuals with disabilities while improving the administration of Simplified Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP).

II. POLICY PROCEDURES

- A. NC FAST will calculate the new SNAP allotment amounts automatically for any benefits issued October 1, 2021. If the households rent, mortgage and/or lot rent expense is more than \$200 per month benefits will increase to \$151 per month. If the households rent, mortgage and/or lot rent expense is less than \$200 per month, the benefit amount will increase to \$106.
- B. NC FAST will reassess all SNAP cases to identify cases that may have underpayments for the month of October 2021. The system will activate those cases that may have underpayments.
- C. If NC FAST discovers cases with a current determination on "AUTO HOLD", the cases will go back to AUTO HOLD again. Case workers must review the case accordingly to determine if accepting the determination to issue an underpayment is accurate. If the case is accurate, accept the determination. If an underpayment generates, the case workers must activate the underpayment.

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To identify the cases with and "AUTO HOLD" determination, refer to the report that will be posted in FAST Help >Economic Services>Reports>FNS>FNS CASES With Auto Hold. Use the NC FAST report password to retrieve the report.

D. This change is considered a mass change and individual notices will not be issued. A mass notice will be issued to notify FNS households of the change. Attached are notices in both English and Spanish along with a document of the seven languages with information on how the notice can be translated. These notices and document must be displayed in all areas of the agency viewable by the general public and on the agency website from the date received through December 31, 2021.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

The changes are effective with FNS benefits issued October 1, 2021. If you have any questions, please submit them to Operational Support Team (OST) at dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Carlo da la Vest

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

CLW/vd

Attachments (4)

Notice to Food and Nutrition Services Recipients, English and Spanish Language Notice (seven languages) Desk Reference English Desk Reference Spanish

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