



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for
Human Services

September 15, 2021

Dear County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors

Subject: **Extended** Timely Household Reporting of Food Loss Waiver

Priority: Information Only

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

On August 16, 2021, Tropical Storm Fred impacted several areas of the state causing severe flooding in the western part of the state that left an estimated 25,000 households without power. Power outages were reported for four or more hours for the following counties across North Carolina: **Avery, Buncombe, Haywood, Madison, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey.**

II. POLICY PROCEDURES

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved a waiver that allows current FNS recipients who suffered food loss to report beyond the 10-day timeframe and receive replacement benefits if eligible. The timeframe for recipients to report food loss and request replacement benefits has been extended, **August 27, 2021 through September 27, 2021** for households in the following counties: **Avery, Buncombe, Haywood, Madison, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey.**

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

The replacement benefits will be for the amount of food loss from July 2021 if benefits were received prior to August 16, 2021. Per FNS policy section 910, a DSS-1678 Replacement Affidavit must be completed, signed, and retained in the record. The replacement amount must not exceed one month's allotment for the FNS unit. Households must be allowed to request replacement benefits in their county of residence or the county where they may be residing temporarily. Since most households could have potentially consumed the food purchased with their August benefits, careful consideration should be taken in determining the amount of the replacement. Counties should accept clients signed affidavit unless questionable.

Example: The replacement amount must not exceed the monthly allotment for the FNS unit. If a FNSU of 4 receives \$325 the replacement amount must not exceed over \$325.

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

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
MAILING ADDRESS: 2420 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2420
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6300 • FAX: 919-334-1265

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Refer to the NC FAST Job Aid: First click link to [FAST Help](#) and then click link to [Issuing Replacement Manual Benefits](#).

NC FAST has added **Avery, Buncombe, Haywood, Madison, Transylvania, Watauga and Yancey**, Tropical Storm Fred Reason Code to the benefits replacement reason drop down menu and it will be available for selection when a client requests a replacement due to the disaster. Workers must select Tropical Storm Fred, when appropriate, to ensure the correct tracking and reporting of disaster-related replacements. All replacements must be keyed and completed by September 30, 2021 for **Avery, Buncombe, Haywood, Madison, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey**. NC FAST will disable these selections and replacements will not be keyed after September 30, 2021.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy is effective September 10, 2021 for all FNS households that are active in July 2021 and August 2021. If you have any questions regarding this information, please send them to the Operational Support Team (OST) at DSS.Policy.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



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

CLW/vd

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