Date December 30, 2020

Dear County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors

Subject: Student of Higher Education Work Requirement Exemption

Priority: Information and Action Required

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

The COVID-19 Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 allows Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) to exempt certain eligibility requirements for students of higher education during the period of January 1, 2021 through 30 days after the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted.

II. POLICY PROCEDURES

The COVID-19 Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 has removed the work requirement for students that meet the following conditions:

1. The student is enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education; AND

2. Is eligible to participate in a State or federally financed work study program during the regular school year as determined by the institution of higher education; OR

3. In the current academic year, has an expected family contribution of $0 as determined by the financial aid office of the institution of higher education.

Note: Work requirements have not been removed for any other group of students of higher education.
III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

The changes are effective with all pending and new applications, recertifications, and changes processed for benefit months of January 1, 2021 through 30 days after the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted.

Submit any questions regarding this information to the Operational Support Team (OST) at

dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

David Locklear, Deputy Director
Economic and Family Services Section

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