

# DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES

**EFS\_FNS\_AL-2-2019**

## **(Food and Nutrition Services)**

**TO:** County Directors of Social Services

**ATTENTION:** Food and Nutrition Services Administrators, Managers and Supervisors

**DATE:** August 30, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Temporary Census Employment

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 01, 2019

### **I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved a waiver for North Carolina to participate in the Census 2020 Demonstration Project. This project will allow exclusion of income for individuals who gain temporary employment with the Census Bureau from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020 when determining eligibility for Food and Nutrition Services (FNS).

By participating in this demonstration project North Carolina will align FNS policy with Traditional Medicaid, Work First, and the Energy Program. Excluding the earned income of temporary census employees will allow individuals with limited or no employment history gain valuable work experience without a reduction in FNS benefits.

### **II. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS**

- A. Income received from permanent census employees or through private companies (including temporary agencies) contracted through the Census Bureau will be countable earned income.

For applicants/recipients who receive income from temporary census employment from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020, take the following actions.

1. When determining eligibility for FNS, exclude temporary income that is received directly from the Census Bureau during this period.
2. Income from temporary census employment is not required to be reported. Applicants/recipients will not be penalized for failing to report census income from temporary employment received October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020.

3. Any FNS cases with temporary census income not excluded between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020 must be manually supplemented. Households who were denied benefits after the effective date of this policy where temporary census income was counted should be reevaluated based on this current policy.
- B. For applicants/recipients who received income from temporary census employment prior to October 1, 2019, take the following actions.
1. Count as earned income through September 30, 2019.
  2. For any pending applications, treat as terminated income by counting actual wages in each month through September 2019.

Submit any questions regarding this policy to Operational Support Team (OST) at [DSS.Policy.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:DSS.Policy.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Locklear". The signature is written in a cursive style.

David Locklear, Deputy Director  
Economic and Family Services Section

DL/vd