

DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES

EFS_FNS_AL-20-2016

Hurricane Matthew 2016 Hot Food Waiver (November 7, 2016)

(Food and Nutrition Services)

TO: County Directors of Social Services

ATTENTION: Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors

DATE: November 8, 2016

SUBJECT: Hurricane Matthew Hot Food Waiver

EFFECTIVE: November 8, 2016

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

On October 8, 2016, Hurricane Matthew brought severe flooding and power outages to many counties in eastern and central North Carolina. Many families and individuals were directly impacted by Hurricane Matthew which forced them to temporarily relocate to shelters, with family members, and others within surrounding and bordering counties.

II. POLICY PROCEDURES

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved a Hot Food Waiver for all Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) recipients in North Carolina through November 14, 2016. NC requested this waiver to be extended through **November 30, 2016**. Governor McCrory announced on November 3, 2016 about federal direct temporary housing assistance for residents displaced from their dwellings, four counties thus far, Columbus, Edgecombe, Robeson, and Wayne counties. Direct Temporary Housing allows to provide manufactured homes as a temporary housing solution. The state signed contracts last month to ensure that once the request was approved work could start immediately.

Temporary housing has proven challenging because many hotels and rental homes in the impacted communities were also flooded. Currently, 240 people remain in four shelters across the state and more than 1,700 families are living in temporary housing.

This waiver allows any FNS recipient to purchase hot prepared food from EBT-authorized retailers anywhere in North Carolina. This does not include restaurants or other non-EBT authorized retailers. USDA will provide notification to retailers, and a state press release will be made available. The Department is in communication with the North Carolina Retail Merchants Association to ensure all authorized retailers are aware of this waiver. Social media, press releases, other media outlets and state partners will be used to notify FNS recipients of this waiver.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Hot Food Waiver is effective October 14, 2016 and will end on November 30, 2016. Submit any questions regarding this information to the DHHS Operational Support Team (OST) at ost.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Locklear". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Locklear, Chief
Economic and Family Services