

**DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES
EFS_FNS_AL-3-2019**

Hurricane Dorian 2019, Timely Household Reporting of Food Loss

(September 09, 2019)

(Food and Nutrition Services)

TO: County Directors of Social Services

ATTENTION: Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors

DATE: September 09, 2019

SUBJECT: Hurricane Dorian Timely Household Reporting of Food Loss Waiver

EFFECTIVE: September 09, 2019

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

On September 5, 2019, Hurricane Dorian brought severe flooding and power outages to several eastern counties across North Carolina. Many families and individuals were directly impacted by Hurricane Dorian which forced them to be displaced from their homes. A number of county departments of social services offices were closed. As a result, Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) recipients may be unable to report food loss within the required 10-day timeframe.

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. Recipients may report food loss and request replacement benefits until September 30, 2019.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

The replacement benefit will be for the amount of the food loss from August 2019 benefits or September 2019 benefits if the benefit was received prior to September 5, 2019. As stated in policy Form DSS-1678, Replacement Affidavit, must be completed, signed, and retained in the record and 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. Accept clients signed affidavit unless questionable.

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

NC FAST has added the Hurricane Dorian 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 Hurricane Dorian, when appropriate, to ensure the correct tracking and reporting of disaster-related cases.

Submit any questions regarding this information to the Operational Support Team (OST) at DSS.Policy.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov To ensure these questions receive priority response, please include "Disaster" in the email subject line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Locklear". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

David Locklear, Deputy Director
Economic and Family Services