

**DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES 32-2020  
EFS\_FNS\_AL-32-2020**

**Food and Nutrition Services COVID-19 Pandemic Waiver Extension**

**TO:** County Directors of Social Services  
**ATTENTION:** Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors  
**DATE:** August 20, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Denial of FNS Certification Period Extension Waiver and Application/Recertification Interview Waiver  
**EFFECTIVE:** September 1, 2020  
**PRIORITY:** For Information and Action

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

Based on the state's continued economic status due to COVID-19 North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) requested waiver extensions for suspension of the FNS interview prior to approval of applications and recertifications, and the waiver to automatically extend certification periods (CP) for cases that CP ends September 30, 2020. Neither of the waiver extensions were approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**II. POLICY PROCEDURES**

Resume following regular policy regarding the processing requirements for all recertifications with a CP that ends September 30, 2020 and after and follow the requirements for interviewing prior to the approval of FNS applications and recertifications.

**III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS**

The following waivers were not extended by USDA and the implementation instructions updated as follows:

[EFS FNS AL-7-2020 Application and Recertification Interview Waiver](#)

- The policy outlined in the administrative letter is no longer valid for any FNS applications and recertifications with a date of application/recertification after August 31, 2020.
  - Interviews are not required if the date of application/recertification is on or before August 31, 2020. Continue to process as outlined in the Administrative Letter.
- Resume following regular policy in FNS manual section 310 Interviewing for all applications and recertifications with a date of application/recertification on or after September 1, 2020.

[EFS FNS AL-13-2020 Food and Nutrition Services Certification Period Extension.](#)

1. No additional automatic extensions will occur after August 2020. Households with a certification period that ends September 30, 2020 will be sent a recertification form and will be instructed to return it by September 15th and regular recertification policy, per manual section 425, should be followed.

**IV. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This interview policy is effective for all FNS applications and recertifications taken on or after September 1, 2020. Regular recertification policy resumes for all households that have a CP ending September 2020 or later. 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

DL/vd