

DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES 5-2020

Food and Nutrition Services EFS_FNS_AL 5-2020

TO: County Directors of Social Services

ATTENTION: Food and Nutrition Services (FNS)

DATE: March 30, 2020

SUBJECT: Automated Supplements for active FNS households

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2020

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

On March 18, 2020 the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 was signed to provide for the issuance of emergency allotment supplements based on a public health emergency declaration by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act related to an outbreak of COVID-19 when a State has also issued an emergency or disaster declaration. NC DHHS has elected to take this option and will be issuing FNS supplements up to the maximum of the household's monthly benefit amount.

II. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

A. AUTOMATED SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFITS:

Automated supplements will be issued for March 2020 and April 2020 to all FNS recipients in North Carolina up to the maximum allotment for their household size using the following guidelines:

1. The supplement is the difference between the household's actual March 2020 and April 2020 benefits and the maximum allotment for their household size.

Example: A household of 3 received an allotment of \$200 for March 2020 and an allotment of \$193 for the month of April 2020. The maximum allotment for a household of 3 is \$509. The household will be issued a supplement of \$309 ($\$509 - \$200 = \309) for the month of March 2020 and a supplement of \$316 ($\$509 - \$193 = \316) for the month of April 2020.

2. Households that have already received the maximum allotment for their household size will not receive a supplement.

Example: A household of 4 received an allotment of \$646 for March 2020 and an allotment of \$646 for the month of April 2020. The maximum allotment for a household

of 4 is \$646. The household will not be issued a supplement for either month because they have already received the maximum allotment for their household size.

3. The household size will not include ineligible and disqualified members.

Example: A household of 3, including one ineligible member, received an allotment of \$100 for the month of March 2020 and an allotment of \$150 for the month of April 2020. The maximum allotment for a household size of 2 is \$355. The household would be issued a supplement of \$255 ($\$355 - \$100 = \255) for the month of March 2020 and a supplement of \$205 ($\$355 - \$150 = \205) for the month of April 2020.

4. Households that were ineligible in either March 2020 or April 2020 will not receive a supplement for the month(s) they were ineligible.

Example: A household of 5 received an allotment of \$644 in the month of March 2020. The household's case closed at the end of March 2020. The maximum allotment for a household of 5 is \$768. The household would be issued a supplement of \$124 ($\$768 - \$644 = \124).

5. Households that were eligible for an allotment but either month prorated to \$0 will receive a supplement for the prorated month.

Example: A household of 3 received a prorated allotment of \$0 for March 2020 and an allotment of \$193 for the month of April 2020. The maximum allotment for a household of 3 is \$509. The household will be issued a supplement of \$509 ($\$509 - \$0 = \509) for the month of March 2020 and a supplement of \$316 ($\$509 - \$193 = \316) for the month of April 2020.

6. Recoupments withheld for March 2020 will be restored to the FNS unit when the supplement is processed. This processed will be completed on April 18, 2020. Recoupments for the month of April 2020 will be suppressed and will not be subtracted from the household's regular allotment.

Example: A household of 3 has a prior overpayment and has \$50 recouped from their March 2020 allotment. The household received an allotment of \$200 ($\$250 - \$50 = \200) for March 2020 and an allotment of \$250 for April 2020, no recoupment was removed. The maximum allotment for a household of 3 is \$509. The household will be issued a supplement of \$309 ($\$509 - \$200 = \309) for March and a supplement of \$259 ($\$509 - \$250 = \259) for the month of April 2020. NC FAST will remove the recoupment payment from the claim amount.

B. NC FAST SUPPLEMENT SCHEDULE:

NC FAST will automatically issue the March supplements to active FNS households beginning April 1, 2020 and the April supplements beginning April 22, 2020. The supplements will be randomly generated and staggered every other workday until all households have been supplemented. For all applications and recertifications approved subsequent to the March or April supplement dates, NC FAST will continue to run weekly batches to ensure they are supplemented to the max allotment for the appropriate months.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy is effective April 1, 2020 for all FNS households that were active in March 2020 and April 2020. Submit any questions regarding this policy to Operational Support Team (OST) at 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 with a large initial "D".

David Locklear, Deputy Director
Economic and Family Services Section

DL/rc