

**DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES
EFS_FNS_AL -6-2018**

Hurricane Florence 2018 Hot Food Waiver

(September 17, 2018)

(Food and Nutrition Services)

TO: County Directors of Social Services

ATTENTION: Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors

DATE: September 17, 2018

SUBJECT: **(Information and Sharing Only)** Hurricane Florence Hot Food Waiver

EFFECTIVE: September 17, 2018

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

On September 14, 2018, Hurricane Florence ravaged the state and caused many individuals and families to evacuate or temporarily relocate to areas in and around North Carolina. The need for hot foods and hot prepared food products is critical for the coming weeks for those most adversely impacted and who are temporarily unable to prepare hot foods due to power outages and/or displacement from their homes.

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. The waiver allows any FNS recipient to purchase hot foods and hot foods prepared for immediate consumption if they are purchased in a FNS authorized retail store in North Carolina. USDA has provided notification to all authorized retailers in the State. A state press release will be made available along with other social media outlets. The Department has verified with the North Carolina Retail Merchants Association that authorized retailers are prepared to accept EBT for these purchases.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Waiver is effective immediately and will end on October 31, 2018. This information should be shared with affected households. If you have any questions, please submit to the Operational Support Team (OST) at ost.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



David Locklear, Deputy Director
Economic and Family Services