

DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER ECONOMIC SERVICES NO. 2-2014
**Notification of Simplified Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)
Mass Change Allotment Increase
March 13, 2014**

(Food and Nutrition Services)

TO: County Directors of Social Services

ATTENTION: Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors

DATE: March 13, 2014

SUBJECT: **Notification of Simplified Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) Mass Change Allotment Increase**

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2014

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

The United States Department of Agriculture has conducted a cost-of-living increase in Simplified Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits effective April 2014. Households currently receiving \$44 will receive \$58 and households receiving \$92 will receive \$114. A mass change will be performed to increase the benefit allotment for each SNAP household. Attached is a sample of the notice that SNAP recipients will receive regarding the increase in the SNAP benefit allotment.

II. POLICY PROCEDURES

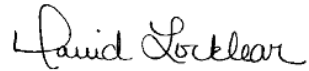
- A. On or before the night of March 31, 2014, NC FAST will perform a mass change on all active SNAP cases with a cert thru date of April or greater. This change will increase all active SNAP households' benefits by \$14 for the low shelter cost or \$22 for the high shelter cost.
- B. The mass change will be performed on active SNAP cases only.
- C. Cases classified as "Decision on Hold" in NC FAST, will not be updated with the mass change until the decision is accepted. Cases with pending timely actions will not be updated.
- D. SNAP households whose rent/mortgage is \$150 or greater will receive a benefit allotment of \$114. SNAP households whose rent/mortgage is \$149 or less will receive \$58.
- E. A notice will be mailed to SNAP recipients by March 31, 2014 notifying them of the change in their benefit allotment.
- F. A report of old and new benefit allotments for each active SNAP case will be created. This report is titled "MASS CHANGE EFF April 2014 FOR SNAP CASES" and can be found in Fast Help. A hard copy will not be mailed to counties.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

This change affects each active SNAP case as of March 31, 2014 with a certification thru date of April 2014 or greater. Each active SNAP case will receive this increase in benefit allotment when receiving their April 2014 issuance of SNAP benefits.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your Food and Nutrition Services & Energy Programs Representative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Locklear".

David Locklear, Acting Chief
Economic and Family Services Section

DL:vd

Attachment

NOTICE TO SIMPLIFIED NUTRITIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) RECIPIENTS

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) conducted a cost evaluation of North Carolina's SNAP project and has approved the following adjustment in benefits. Effective with the April 1, 2014 allotment, the SNAP Program benefit amount for households currently receiving \$44 per month will increase to \$58 per month. Households currently receiving \$92 per month will increase to \$114.

If you have questions about these changes, contact your local Food and Nutrition Services office. You have the right to request a fair hearing if you do not believe your benefits were determined correctly when this change was made.

HOW TO GET A HEARING

You have the right to a fair hearing of your case if you do not agree with our decision. You can request a fair hearing by letting your local Food and Nutrition Services office or county Department of Social Services know of your request. You may request the hearing in person, by telephone, or in writing. The hearing may be requested by any member of your Food and Nutrition Services unit or by your representative, including an attorney obtained at your own expense. Free legal advice may be available. Contact your nearest Legal Services Office.

You have 90 calendar days from the date this notice was mailed to ask for a hearing. Unless you ask for a hearing by this date, you cannot have one.

AVISO PARA LOS BENEFICIARIOS DEL PROGRAMA SNAP (PROGRAMA DE ASISTENCIA NUTRICIONAL SIMPLIFICADO)

El Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos (USDA) realizó una evaluación del costo del Programa SNAP de Carolina del Norte y ha ordenado los siguientes ajustes en los beneficios. A partir de Abril 1, 2014; las familias que actualmente reciben un beneficio de \$44 por mes, recibirán un aumento de beneficios, la nueva cantidad será \$58 por mes. Las familias que actualmente reciben \$92 mensuales, recibirán \$114.

Si tiene preguntas acerca de estos cambios, contacte su oficina local de Servicios de Alimentos y Nutrición.

COMO OBTENER UNA AUDIENCIA

Usted tiene derecho a una Audiencia Justa si cree que sus beneficios no fueron determinados correctamente cuando el cambio fue hecho. Puede solicitar una Audiencia Justa en su oficina de Servicios de Alimentos y Nutrición local, o en su Departamento de Servicios Sociales. Puede solicitar la audiencia personalmente, por teléfono, o por escrito. La Audiencia puede ser solicitada por cualquier miembro de su unidad familiar, o por alguna persona que le represente, incluyendo algún abogado que usted consiga por su propia cuenta. Consejo legal gratuito puede estar disponible, contacte su oficina más cercana de Servicios Legales.

Usted tiene 90 días calendario a partir de la fecha en que este aviso fue enviado para solicitar una audiencia. Si usted no solicita la audiencia dentro de este termino, perderá su derecho a la misma.