

**DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES
EFS_FNS_AL 16-2018**

Food and Nutrition Services Certification Period Extension

(October 3, 2018)

(Food and Nutrition Services)

TO: County Directors of Social Services

ATTENTION: Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors

DATE: October 3, 2018

SUBJECT: Food and Nutrition Services Certification Period Extension for Greene County

EFFECTIVE: (Information Only) Upon Receipt

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

On September 13, 2018, Hurricane Florence brought severe flooding and power outages to many counties throughout North Carolina. Many families and individuals were directly impacted by Hurricane Florence which forced them to temporarily relocate outside of their counties and forced local department of social services offices to close temporarily. The Department requested a waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) which allowed the extension of Food and Nutrition Services Certification periods for all counties impacted by Hurricane Florence. This extension only applies to the county identified within this letter. This waiver will ensure families impacted by the hurricane will be able to continue receipt of their benefits without interruption while counties work to provide disaster relief.

II. POLICY PROCEDURES

USDA approved a Certification Extension Waiver for September 2018 and October 2018 recertifications for the all 28 Individual Assistance (IA) counties. This includes the addition of **Greene** County.

The certification period for all FNS September and October 2018 recertifications, including SNAP cases, has been extended for six months. This extension included recertifications for both months that were, in-progress and not started. This does not include those that were pending closure or late August recertifications. The in-progress recertifications were closed so that NC FAST could extend the certification period. If the county received or receives the recertification form they are not required to react to information reported on the form, however if the client reports changes outside of the recertification form that result in an increase in benefits, the county is to react to the change. For recertification forms received document on the form that the certification period was extended due to Hurricane Florence and place

the form in the case file. If a non-disaster county receives the recertification form for a client in a disaster county, follow the same process as above.

- September recertification were extended to - October 2018 to March 2019
- October recertification were extended to - November 2018 to April 2019

Note: This extension does not apply to August late recertifications.

Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) actively receiving their “free” months were given a good cause exemption for the month of September. ABAWDs whose last free month was September received the exemption. October then becomes their last free month. NC FAST will automatically recode accordingly.

Example 1:

ABAWD prior to exemption:

July	August	September	October
Free month 1	Free month 2	Free month 3	

ABAWD after the exemption:

July	August	September	October
Free month 1	Free month 2	Good Cause	Free month 3

Example 2:

ABAWD prior to exemption:

August	September	October	November
Free month 1	Free month 2	Free month 3	

ABAWD after the exemption:

August	September	October	November
Free month 1	Good Cause	Free month 2	Free month 3

Notices were sent to all households explaining the certification extension as well as the ABAWD good cause for the month of September.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Certification Extension Waiver applies only to September and October 2018 recertifications in Greene County. No action is needed by the county, NC FAST will complete the automated extension. Submit any questions regarding this information to the Operational Support Team (OST) at dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



David Locklear, Deputy Director
Economic and Family Services