

**DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES
EFS_FNS_AL-19-2018**

Tropical Storm Michael 2018, Timely Household Reporting of Food Loss

(October 22, 2018)

(Food and Nutrition Services)

TO: County Directors of Social Services

ATTENTION: Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors

DATE: October 22, 2018

SUBJECT: Tropical Storm Michael Timely Household Reporting of Food Loss Waiver

EFFECTIVE: October 22, 2018

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

On October 11, 2018, Tropical Storm Michael brought flooding and power outages to several counties across North Carolina. Many families and individuals were directly impacted. As a result, Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) recipients are unable to report food loss within the required 10-day timeframe.

II. POLICY PROCEDURES

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved a waiver that allows current FNS recipients who suffered food loss, to report beyond the 10-day timeframe and receive replacement benefits if eligible. Recipients may report food loss and request replacement benefits until October 31, 2018 in all 100 counties.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

The replacement benefit will be for the amount of the food loss for either September 2018 or October 2018 benefits, depending on which benefit month the household received prior to October 11, 2018. As stated in policy, DSS-1678, Replacement/Supplement Affidavit, must be completed, signed, and retained in the record and the replacement amount must not exceed one month's allotment for the FNS unit. Households must request replacement benefits in their county of residence.

Refer to the NC FAST Job Aide: First click link to [FAST Help](#) and then click link to [Issuing Replacement/Manual Benefits](#)

Submit any questions regarding this information to the Operational Support Team (OST) at DSS.Policy.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov To ensure these questions receive priority response, please include "Disaster" in the email subject line.

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