

**DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES
EFS_FNS_AL-8-2018**

Hurricane Florence 2018, Timely Household Reporting of Food Loss

(September 18, 2018)

(Food and Nutrition Services)

TO: County Directors of Social Services

ATTENTION: Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors

DATE: September 18, 2018

SUBJECT: “**Clarification**” Hurricane Florence Timely Household Reporting of Food Loss Waiver

EFFECTIVE: September 18, 2018

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

On September 14, 2018, Hurricane Florence brought severe flooding and power outages to several counties across North Carolina. Many families and individuals were directly impacted by Hurricane Florence which forced them to be displaced from their homes. Many county departments of social services offices have been closed and continue to be closed for indefinite periods of time. 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 15, 2018.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

The replacement benefit will be for the amount of the food loss of either August 2018 or September 2018 benefits, depending on which benefit month the household received prior to September 13, 2018. As stated in policy Form DSS-1678, Replacement 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 be allowed to request replacement benefits in their county of residence or the county where they may be residing temporarily.

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 small mark at the end.

David Locklear, Deputy Director
Economic and Family Services