

CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL

DATE: September 21, 2015

MANUAL: Food and Nutrition Services Certification Manual

TO: County Directors of Social Services

CHANGE NO: 3-2015

SUBJECT: **October 2015 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and Simplified Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) Mass Changes**

EFFECTIVE: **October 1, 2015**

I. BACKGROUND

The purpose of this change notice is to update the determining benefit levels and provide instructions for the October 2015 Mass Change. Changes are made for Maximum Gross and Net Income limits, UA and BUA amounts, Standard Deduction and Excess Shelter Deduction.

The monthly maximum SNAP allotment amounts have been updated. SNAP households currently receiving \$114 per month will increase to \$121 per month. Households currently receiving \$58 per month will increase to \$61.

II. SPECIFIC CHANGES

A. Section 285, Determining Benefit Levels

1. Standard Allowance for Utilities (SUA and BUA) amounts updated in Section 285.01, A.
2. Standard Deduction amounts updated in Section 285.01, B.
3. Excess Shelter Deduction updated in Section 285.01, F.
4. Maximum Monthly Income updated in Section 285.02, A.
5. Maximum Allotment effective dates updated in Section 285.02, B.
6. Income Standards for separate Food and Nutrition Services units updated in Section 285.03.
7. Figure 285-1, DSS-1700 Application Worksheet example, updated in Section 285.04, D.

B. Forms updated to reflect new income and deduction amounts

1. DSS-1700, Application Worksheet
2. DSS-8550 and DSS-8550sp, Change Report Form
3. DSS-8552 and DSS-8552sp, Food and Nutrition Services Makes North Carolina Stronger
4. DSS-8560, Caseworker Desk Reference

C. Section 600, Simplified Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)

Allotment amounts have been updated in Section 600.02.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

COLA MASS CHANGE

These changes are effective with all applications, changes, and recertifications on October 1, 2015.

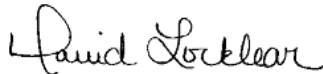
SNAP MASS CHANGE

- A. On or before the night of September 30, 2015, NC FAST will perform a mass change on all active SNAP cases with a cert thru date of October or greater. This change will increase all active SNAP households' benefits by \$3 for the low shelter cost or \$7 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 \$121. SNAP households whose rent/mortgage is \$149 or less will receive \$61.
- E. A notice will be mailed to SNAP recipients by September 30, 2015 notifying them of the change in their benefit allotment (SEE ATTACHED).
- F. A report of old and new benefit allotments for each active SNAP case will be created. This report is titled "MASS CHANGE EFF October 2015 FOR SNAP CASES" and can be found in Fast Help. A hard copy will not be mailed to counties.

This change affects each active SNAP case as of September 30, 2015 with a certification thru date of October-2015 or greater. Each active SNAP case will receive this increase in benefit allotment when receiving their October 2015 issuance of SNAP benefits.

If you have any Food and Nutrition Services policy questions, contact the Operational Support Team via email at ost.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



David Locklear, Chief
Economic and Family Services Section

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[FSs285](#)

[FSs285f1](#)

[FSs600](#)

[SNAP Notice](#)