

**DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES 6-2020**

**EFS\_FNS\_AL-9-2020**

**EFS\_WF\_AL-6-2020**

**Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) and Work First (WF) Claims Suspension Waiver**

**TO:** County Directors of Social Services

**ATTENTION:** Food and Nutrition Services and Work First Family Assistance Managers and Supervisors

**DATE:** April 15, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Suspension of Claim Collections

**EFFECTIVE:** Upon Receipt

**PRIORITY:** For Information

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

On March 18, 2020, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 was signed to help state agencies to provide Food Nutrition Services and Work First Family Assistance to those households effected by the COVID-19 virus. North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) requested and was approved for a waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to temporarily suspend FNS collection action on overpayments to help alleviate financial hardship on households as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. DHHS has extended the waiver to include Work First Family Assistance households.

**II. POLICY PROCEDURES**

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved a waiver giving North Carolina approval to temporarily suspend collection of active Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) recoupments of overpayments, delay collection action on newly established FNS overpayments, and will not consider payments on established FNS overpayments delayed due to this suspension to be delinquent until May 31, 2020. DHHS has extended this waiver to include Work First Family Assistance households. If households wish to continue to make payments, the payment can be accepted and applied to their claim. Counties can inform households that there is no penalty for not making payments at this time. Households remain liable for their outstanding FNS and WF debts and the collection activity and delinquency determination will resume at the end of the waiver period.

No action is required by county staff to implement this waiver. NC FAST will implement changes effective April 20, 2020 to automatically suspend collections and to no longer consider late payments on established FNS and WF overpayments as delinquent for the duration of the waiver period. The system will apply a block of "Litigation" to every debtor's indicators on any Product Liability Claim in Active status. This block will be removed by the system at the end of the waiver period.

### III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

This policy is effective upon receipt for collection of all current FNS and WF overpayments and delay of collection on newly established FNS and WF overpayments through May 31, 2020. Submit any questions regarding this information to the Operational Support Team (OST) at [dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov).

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

DL/rc