

**DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES 16-2020
EFS_FNS_AL-16-2020**

Food and Nutrition Services (FNS)

TO: County Directors of Social Services

ATTENTION: Food and Nutrition Services Managers and Supervisors

DATE: May 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Extension of COVID-19 Pandemic Waivers

EFFECTIVE: Upon Receipt

PRIORITY: For Information and Action

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Based on the state's continued economic status due to COVID-19 North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) requested and was approved for waivers to suspend the interview requirement at Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) application and recertification, suspension of claims collections, and approval to conduct state hearings by telephone. These three waivers were extended through June 30, 2020.

II. POLICY PROCEDURES

There are no policy procedure changes for the waivers addressed in this letter. All terms and conditions outlined within the previously approved adjustment(s) apply.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

The following waivers have been extended until June 30, 2020 by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the implementation instructions updated as follows:

- **[EFS FNS AL-7-2020 Application and Recertification Interview Waiver.](#)**

This policy is effective upon receipt for all FNS applications and recertifications currently pending and received up to and including June 30, 2020. Submit any questions regarding this information to the Operational Support Team (OST) at dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

- **[EFS FNS AL-9-2020 Suspension of Claim Collections.](#)**

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 June 30, 2020. Submit any questions regarding this

information to the Operational Support Team (OST) at dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

- **[EFS FNS AL-10-2020 FNS State Fair Hearings Conducted by Telephone.](#)**

The state hearings by telephone is effective upon receipt until the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration by the North Carolina Secretary of Health and Human Services is lifted. The fair hearings process may be extended up to 120 days from receipt of the request for fair hearings that were already in process or for which requests are received from March 1 through June 30, 2020. Submit any questions regarding this information can be sent to the Hearings & Appeals Section at Medicaid.DSS.State.Appeals@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Locklear". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

David Locklear, Deputy Director
Economic and Family Services

DL/rc