



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for
Human Services

March 26, 2020

Willie C. Taylor, Regional Administrator
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Southeast Region
61 Forsyth Street SW, Suite 8T36
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Taylor:

This letter transmits North Carolina's request for a Claims recoupment Waiver beginning on the date of approval of this letter through the last day of the month following the month in which the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration by the Secretary of Health and Human Services is lifted. The waiver will suspend collection of program integrity claims, recoupments, and forgive delinquent payments by not considering households that miss a claim payment delinquent.

North Carolina was declared a State of Emergency due to the widespread of the COVID-19 virus. Many individuals are unable to work due to the widespread adverse economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Suspending collection of claims, recoupments, and forgiving delinquent payments will provide those households affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with financial relief during this period. North Carolina is requesting this waiver statewide.

Your assistance in this matter is appreciated. Please contact David Locklear at (919) 527-6311 if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Locklear".

David Locklear, Deputy Director

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES • ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES

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STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Type of request:** Initial
2. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.18(a)
3. **State:** North Carolina
4. **Region:** SERO
5. **Regulatory requirements:** Regulations provide that States must establish and collect any claim resulting from the overpayment or trafficking of benefits, and 7 CFR 273.18(e)(3)(v) requires that claim repayment is due no later than 30 days after the date of initial household notification.
6. **Description of alternative procedures:** North Carolina is requesting a waiver of the regulatory requirements to allow North Carolina to suspend collection of program integrity claims, recoupments, and forgive delinquent payments by not considering households that miss a claim payment during this period of time as delinquent. The State must notify households impacted by this waiver approval and will comply with the notice requirements of 7 CFR 273.18(e)(3).
7. **Justification for request:** The request is based on the widespread adverse economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on SNAP households. Suspending collection of claims, recoupments, and forgiving delinquent payments will provide those households affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with financial relief during this period.
8. **Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion:** North Carolina has approximately 32,010 households that would potentially be impacted by this waiver.
9. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waive is needed:** Implementation date will be upon approval of this waiver request. The waiver will end on the last day of the month following the month in which the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration by the Secretary of Health and Human Services is lifted.
10. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** The proposal does not affect quality control sampling or procedures.
11. **Signature and title of requesting official:**



David Locklear, Deputy Director
Economic and Family Services

12. **Date of request:** March 26, 2020