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**DSS PRESS RELEASE: January 24, 2019**

**“Food and Nutrition Services Recipients Encouraged to Budget Wisely”**

Due to the federal shutdown, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) instructed North Carolina to issue February’s Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) benefits on Sunday, January 20, 2019. These benefits would have normally been issued on a regular schedule between February 3 and February 21, 2019.

The good news is that families receiving FNS benefits will not be without for the month of February. However, benefits were issued early and will be the **ONLY** FNS benefits issued for February 2019. Therefore, families are strongly encouraged to budget and spend wisely.

*"We are working closely with county departments of social services and our federal partners to ensure participants and retailers have little to no interruption of FNS services due to the shutdown,"* said Tara Myers, NCDHHS Deputy Secretary for Human Services.

FNS is a federal food assistance program that provides low-income families with funds to purchase food needed for a nutritional, adequate diet. February’s benefits, issued on January 20, are immediately available for use. However, participants should be aware **there will be no additional FNS benefits issued in the month of February**, and they should plan accordingly.

There is no information available at this time regarding funding beyond February.

Randolph County families who need assistance with food or other items may visit the Randolph County Partnership for Children’s website for a list of available resources. <http://www.randolphkids.org/parent-guide/291-logo-editing.html> .

For more information on FNS, go to [www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/low-income-services/food-nutrition-services-food-stamps](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/low-income-services/food-nutrition-services-food-stamps) or contact Randolph County Department of Social Services at 336-683-8000 or visit our office at 1512 N. Fayetteville St Asheboro, NC.

P.O. Box 3239, Asheboro, North Carolina 27204

[www.randolphcountync.gov/Departments/Social-Services](http://www.randolphcountync.gov/Departments/Social-Services)

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