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## Department of Social Services

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### DSS PRESS RELEASE

#### **“Food and Nutrition Services Help Feed Over 9,000 Families in Randolph County**

*Food and Nutrition Services* (FNS), also known as Food Stamps, assists low-income households with buying the food they need for a nutritionally adequate diet. In Randolph County, the FNS Program provides food assistance to over 9,000 families and more than 19,000 individuals each month. Benefits issued total nearly \$2 million a month and over \$23 million a year. Many of the dollars issued as benefits are spent right here in Randolph County creating a positive impact on businesses in the local area.

FNS is a federal food assistance program and anyone can receive this assistance if they meet eligibility requirements. You may be eligible for Food and Nutrition Services if your total income falls below the appropriate gross income limits for your household size. Eligibility workers at your County DSS determine which income limit applies to your household. DSS accepts applications, collects information, and determines eligibility for the FNS program based on the information collected.

If eligible, monthly allotments of FNS benefits are issued via Electronic Benefit Transfer cards (EBT cards). The amount of the monthly allotment varies from household to household and is based on income and household size. Benefits may be used to purchase most foods at participating stores. Benefits cannot be used to purchase tobacco, pet food, paper products, or alcoholic beverages.

At Randolph County DSS, FNS applications are taken as part of a Universal Intake process which allows customers to apply for FNS and other economic assistance programs at the same time. Customers may file applications in person, by mail, fax, drop off, and online via ePass. North Carolina ePass is a quick and easy way for individuals and families to learn about and apply for available benefits and services. You can access ePass at: <https://epass.nc.gov/CitizenPortal/application.do>

In 2019, Randolph County FNS caseworkers completed 5,482 applications, 10,605 recertification case reviews for continued eligibility, and 11,055 case changes.

For additional information click <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/low-income-services/food-nutrition-services-food-stamps> or contact your local DSS. In Randolph County call (336) 683-8000 or visit <http://www.randolphcountync.gov/Departments/Social-Services>

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

Serving by empowering, protecting, educating, and promoting stability.