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DSS PRESS RELEASE

“Additional Food & Nutrition Service Benefits Stimulate Economy”

Food & Nutritional Services (FNS) is a federal food assistance program that provides low-income families with funds to purchase food needed for a nutritional, adequate diet. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States Department of Agriculture authorized and provided funds for North Carolina to provide additional FNS benefits to affected families in two ways.

First, the monthly allotment amount for all active FNS households was increased to the maximum allotment for their household size. In Randolph County, this resulted in a monthly increase in benefits of \$2,447,853 for the months of March, April, May and June. The total additional benefits for this initiative was \$9,791,412.

Secondly, the new Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program provided extra help buying groceries for the families of 12,492 Randolph County children who normally receive free and reduced lunch at school. Randolph County families received approximately \$371 in total P-EBT benefits per child, provided over two installments, for a total issuance of \$4,620,260. All unused benefits will rollover month-to-month and must be used within 365 days.

The total additional \$14,411,672 in benefits over the past 4 months have not only provided the much needed assistance families have needed during this pandemic but have also flowed into our county to stimulate Randolph County’s economy through grocery stores and other Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) vendors to include special authorization to purchase on WalMart.com and Amazon.

These special benefit allotments may be ending but economic assistance programs are still in effect to support those eligible families in need. 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>

Although Randolph County DSS is not offering in-person economic services at this time, we are still here serving the citizens of Randolph County. You may apply for benefits by using e-Pass at <https://epass.nc.gov/> or you may pick up a paper application at the entrance to the building at 1512 N. Fayetteville Street, Asheboro, NC. You can drop information or applications at the drop box near the entrance, or send them electronically by email to your case worker. For more information call: (336) 683-8000. For more information on FNS, go to www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/low-income-services/food-nutrition-services-food-stamps.

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www.randolphcountync.gov/Departments/Social-Services

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