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**FOOD STAMP CERTIFICATION  
CASE ASSIGNMENT AND MAINTENANCE  
Transitional Food Stamp Benefits**

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**FS 550 Transitional Food Stamp Benefits  
Change #1-2006  
April 1, 2006**

**550.01 TRANSITIONAL FOOD STAMP BENEFITS**

Transitional Food Stamp (TFS) benefits are five months of extended food stamp benefits for families who become ineligible to receive Work First Family Assistance (WFFA). Most food stamp units (FSU s) are eligible to receive TFS benefits for a period of five months when WFFA terminates. This includes WFFA open/shut cases.

**550.02 TRANSITIONAL FOOD STAMP BENEFITS ELIGIBILITY**

- A. There are only a few situations in which a household cannot receive TFS. Those situations are as follows:
1. The FSU contains a member who is currently disqualified from the Food Stamp Program and/or WFFA; **or**
  2. The FSU loses WFFA for any of the following reasons:
    - a. The WFFA case closes due to a sanction; **or**
    - b. The WFFA Unit moves out of North Carolina; **or**
    - c. The WFFA Unit moves to another county in North Carolina; **or**
    - d. The FSU was receiving more than one WFFA payment prior to the WFFA termination and at least one WFFA payment is still being received.
  3. The FSU is over the Food Stamp gross income limits due to the loss of categorically eligible status.
- B. The following policies and procedures are important when transferring cases to TFS: Take action within 10 calendar days of notification of WFFA termination.
1. Work requirements and ABAWD status do not apply during the TFS period.
  2. Do not budget new or increased income that made the FSU ineligible for WFFA. Use the prior month s food stamp budget less the WFFA payment to determine the TFS benefit amount.  
  
**EXAMPLE:** A household reports new earnings toward the end of May. Because of the adverse action time frames, the June WFFA payment and food stamp benefits are not changed. When the change is processed, the family becomes ineligible for WFFA effective July. Transfer the food stamp case to TFS effective July through November. The benefit amount would be based on the June food stamp budget minus the WFFA payment but not including the new or increased income.
  3. Resources are not evaluated or considered when transferring a case to TFS.
- C. It is not necessary for all members of the FSU to be WFFA recipients to be eligible for TFS. This includes, but is not limited to, food stamp cases that consist of child-only

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WFFA recipients and their adult caretakers. These cases are eligible to transfer to TFS if all other eligibility factors are met.

**550.03            TRANSFERRING CASES TO TRANSITIONAL FOOD STAMP BENEFITS**

Complete the DSS-8590 as follows:

- A.     Enter Transaction Code 6 in Field 6 of the DSS-8590; **and**
- B.     Re-enter the old date of application in Field 8; **and**
- C.     Enter a five-month certification period in Fields 10 and 11; **and**
- D.     Enter Code T in Field 13 of the DSS-8590; **and**
- E.     Enter the first month of the TFS period in Start Issuance Field 14; **and**
- F.     Remove the Work First payment amount from Field 80-G.

**NOTE:** Do not add, remove, or change any other sources of income when transferring a food stamp case to TFS benefits. If there is a pending Notice of Adverse Action (NOAA), do not make the change. The allotment should be based on the prior month's allotment less the Work First payment. FS cases that are in a suspense status are eligible for TFS.

**550.04            CHANGES DURING THE TRANSITIONAL FOOD STAMP BENEFIT PERIOD**

Do not make any changes to the TFS case during the five-month certification period unless:

- A.     It is necessary to add a member of a TFS case to another food stamp case. Issue a NOAA and remove the individual following regular Food Stamp Program procedures. Dual participation is not allowed.
- B.     The FSU chooses to apply for recertification during the transitional period. If the FSU requests regular food stamp benefits instead of TFS:
  - 1.     Discuss the pros and cons of recertifying the case, and inform the FSU prior to completing the recertification.
  - 2.     Determine benefits according to the FSU's circumstances at the time of the recertification.
- C.     The FSU provides a written request of termination.
- D.     The county discovers a county-responsible underissuance due to not subtracting the WFFA payment. If this occurs, remove the WFFA payment and restore benefits as needed.
- E.     A FSU member receives an Intentional Program Violation disqualification during the TFS period. If this occurs, impose the disqualification but do not terminate the TFS.
- F.     A claim is established. It is acceptable to reduce the allotment amount due to a recoupment.
- G.     The household no longer resides in North Carolina.

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- H. A change that results in no eligible individual in the home due to the institutionalization or death of all FSU members.

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**550.05            PROCEDURES FOR ENDING TRANSITIONAL FOOD STAMP BENEFITS**

A Food Stamp Notice of Expiration, DSS-8594, will be generated in the fourth month of the TFS period.

- A.     Use the DSS-8594 to schedule a face-to-face recertification; and
- B.     Mail the DSS-8594 to the FSU; and
- C.     Follow regular food stamp policy and procedures to complete the interview and determine eligibility.