



Legislation Text

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TITLE

DHHS-SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION BUDGET AMENDMENT: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDING TO COUNTIES FOR FEDERAL FY 2022

SPONSOR

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BACKGROUND

The State of North Carolina received a total of \$15.4 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to assist with administering the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the NC Department of Health of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) is allocating a total of \$10 million of this funding to counties on a reimbursement basis. NC DHHS is calculating the amount allocated per county based on Food & Nutrition Services (FNS) caseloads; Guilford County's share of the funding based on this calculation is \$638,000.39. The funds available for reimbursement for expenses through September 30, 2022. Guidance from the US Department of Agriculture and NC DHHS is for the funds to be used to support administration of the FNS program and to improve technology in a way that will increase access to the FNS and SNAP programs. Example uses include investing in technology tools for online applications, benefits management, and outcome and activities reporting; ensuring client access is mobile friendly; expanding call center capacity; investing in technology and training to modernize service delivery; and reducing barriers to vulnerable populations including those without easy access to technological or remote tools and operations. NC DHHS has given the County until June 2023 to spend the funds. Social Services staff have identified an initial list of items to purchase including additional computers, scanners, and other tools needed for processing applications; potential expansion of the call center; adding additional remote or online application submission tools to allow fully remote application completion; improving access to the interpreter services at all parts of the FNS application process via on-demand video calls; and adding additional training solutions for FNS to improve overall service.

Guilford County serves per month approximately 53,000 households with an issuance of FNS benefits of \$27 million. The County also receives an average of 3,500 new FNS applications every month.

BUDGET IMPACT

Budget Ordinance Amendment

General Fund

\$638,001 Increase in Federal/State Revenue

\$638,001 Increase in Appropriation to Health & Human Services (Social Services)

NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS REQUIRED

REQUESTED ACTION

Approve an increase of \$638,001 in Federal/State Revenue and increase the FY 2022-23 Department of Health & Human Services - Social Services Division budget by the same amount to reflect Guilford County's allocation of SNAP funding from the State for improving access to and function of the Food & Nutrition Program by purchasing additional and updating existing technology used in FNS for application submissions, processing, and other work.