



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH  
SECRETARY

May 1, 2017

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Louis Pate, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on  
Health and Human Services  
North Carolina General Assembly  
Room 311, Legislative Office Building  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

The Honorable Josh Dobson, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on  
Health and Human Services  
North Carolina General Assembly  
Room 301N, Legislative Office Building  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Dear Chairmen:

Session Law 2013-417, Section 1, requires the Department of Health and Human Services to report annually on the number of individuals denied assistance per this section. SL 2013-417, Section 1, requires a county department of social services to verify whether an applicant for or a recipient of Food and Nutrition Services benefits or Work First program assistance has a status of fleeing felon or parole/probation violator. If such status is determined, the applicant for or recipient of assistance shall be denied or terminated from said assistance. In addition, the Department of Health and Human Services shall promote interagency cooperation and collaboration to fulfill the requirements of law. This report provides a data summary of the number of individuals denied and/or terminated from assistance during calendar year 2016.

We appreciate the opportunity to share this report with you and look forward to responding to any questions you may have about this report. Should you have any questions regarding the report, please contact Wayne Black, Director of the Division of Social Services at 919-527-6335.

Sincerely,

Mandy Cohen, MD, MPH  
Secretary

cc:	Denise Thomas	Rod Davis	Kolt Ulm	Theresa Matula
	Joyce Jones	Pam Kilpatrick	Susan Jacobs	LT McCrimmon
	Lindsey Dowling	Wayne Black	Ben Popkin	<a href="mailto:reports@ncleg.net">reports@ncleg.net</a>
	Marjorie Donaldson	Deborah Landry	Susan Perry-Manning	

WWW.NCDHHS.GOV

TEL 919-855-4800 • FAX 919-715-4645

LOCATION: 101 BLAIR DRIVE • ADAMS BUILDING • RALEIGH, NC 27603

MAILING ADDRESS: 2001 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-2001

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

**Report on Fleeing Felons or Probation/Parole Violators Denied  
and/or Terminated from Food and Nutrition Service or Work  
First Assistance**

**SL 2013-417, Section 1.(h)**



**Report to the  
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human  
Services**

**By  
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services**

**May 1, 2017**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Session Law 2013-417 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to report annually on the number of individuals denied assistance per this section. Session Law 2013-417 requires a county department of social services to verify whether an applicant for or a recipient of Food and Nutrition Services benefits or Work First program assistance has a status of fleeing felon or parole/probation violator. If such status is determined the applicant for or recipient of assistance shall be denied or terminated from said assistance. This report provides a data summary of the number of individuals denied and/or terminated from assistance during calendar year 2016.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Social Security Act defines the Food and Nutrition Services Program (FNS) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) as programs of public assistance. The FNS program is designed to promote general welfare and to safeguard health and well-being by raising the levels of nutrition among low-income households. North Carolina's TANF program, called Work First, provides parents with short-term services and cash assistance to help them become employed and move toward self-sufficiency. Grandparents, relatives caring for their relative children and legal guardians may apply for assistance for a child to prevent the child's entry into the foster care system.

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, [Public Law 104-193](#) (PRWORA) amended both FNS and TANF/Work First program regulations to prohibit individuals from receiving assistance who are classified as fleeing felons or violating a condition of parole or probation. Session Law 2013-417 serves to support and further enhance the existing regulations.

The Department maintains an Online Verification System (OVS) to assist county social/human services agencies in determining program eligibility for applicants and recipients. OVS is comprised of a series of data matches, one of which provides criminal history data. The data is obtained by matching applicant/recipient files with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. The match results assist the county agencies in determining if the applicant or recipient meets the program requirement of not having the status of a fleeing felon or parole/ probation violator. The matches are completed at initial application, household composition changes and at eligibility redetermination for all adult household members.

Program policies also require households to answer questions regarding the criminal history of adult household members and to attest to the accuracy of their statements. Applicants for and recipients of assistance are verbally informed by FNS and Work First program staff that certain felons and parole/ probation violators are prohibited from the receipt of assistance. They are terminated from assistance and issued benefits recouped if this information becomes known to the agency.

## **NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS DETERMINED INELIGIBLE DURING 2016**

For calendar year 2106, 2,413 individuals were identified as fugitive felons or parole/probation violators and were determined ineligible to receive assistance. This translates to 2,370 individuals for the FNS program, 112 of which had a status of both fugitive felon and parole/probation violator. There were 43 individuals determined ineligible for the Work First program, including one individual with the status of both fugitive felon and parole/probation violator. This data includes applicant individuals and individuals in households where the other family members are eligible for assistance. The following chart provides a listing by county of the number of ineligible individuals. The data is sourced from the North Carolina Families Accessing Services through Technology (NC FAST) automated case management system.

**Number of Applicants/Recipients: January 1, 2016- December 31, 2016**

County Name	Fleeing Felon		Parole/Probation Violators		Combined Status of Fleeing Felon & Parole/ Probation Violator		Total Denied/Terminated	
	FNS	Work First	FNS	Work First	FNS	Work First	FNS	Work First
Alamance	4	0	31	1	9	0	44	1
Alexander	2	0	6	0	0	0	8	0
Alleghany	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Anson	2	0	2	0	0	0	4	0
Ashe	2	0	3	0	3	0	8	0
Avery	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Beaufort	3	0	8	0	0	0	11	0
Bertie	0	0	5	1	0	0	5	1
Bladen	3	0	4	0	0	0	7	0
Brunswick	0	0	23	1	3	0	26	1
Buncombe	21	2	79	1	7	0	107	3
Burke	14	0	10	0	2	0	26	0
Cabarrus	3	0	68	0	1	0	72	0
Caldwell	0	0	23	0	0	0	23	0
Camden	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	0
Carteret	4	0	19	0	0	0	23	0
Caswell	1	0	6	0	0	0	7	0
Catawba	12	0	12	1	0	0	24	1
Chatham	2	0	2	0	0	0	4	0
Cherokee	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
Chowan	0	0	4	0	4	0	8	0
Clay	0	0	9	0	0	0	9	0
Cleveland	5	0	30	0	4	0	39	0
Columbus	1	0	26	0	5	0	32	0
Craven	6	0	24	0	1	0	31	0
Cumberland	8	5	57	1	2	1	67	7
Currituck	0	0	13	0	0	0	13	0
Dare	0	0	19	0	0	0	19	0
Davidson	1	0	36	0	0	0	37	0
Davie	0	0	5	0	2	0	7	0
Duplin	1	0	22	0	0	0	23	0
Durham	2	2	38	1	0	0	40	3
Edgecombe	7	0	42	1	1	0	50	1
Forsyth	30	1	60	0	7	0	97	1
Franklin	8	0	5	0	0	0	13	0
Gaston	6	0	56	0	0	0	62	0
Gates	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0

County Name	Fleeing Felon		Parole/Probation Violators		Combined Status of Fleeing Felon & Parole/ Probation Violator		Total Denied/Terminated	
	FNS	Work First	FNS	Work First	FNS	Work First	FNS	Work First
Graham	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Granville	5	0	3	0	1	0	9	0
Greene	0	0	9	0	0	0	9	0
Guilford	3	0	37	0	0	0	40	0
Halifax	2	0	16	0	0	0	18	0
Harnett	1	0	30	0	0	0	31	0
Haywood	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	0
Henderson	0	0	33	0	2	0	35	0
Hertford	3	0	7	0	0	0	10	0
Hoke	14	0	21	0	1	0	36	0
Hyde	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	0
Iredell	2	0	42	1	0	0	44	1
Jackson	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0
Johnston	4	0	18	0	0	0	22	0
Jones	0	0	8	0	0	0	8	0
Lee	0	0	34	1	0	0	34	1
Lenoir	4	0	16	0	0	0	20	0
Lincoln	0	0	17	0	0	0	17	0
Macon	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	0
Madison	1	0	2	0	5	0	8	0
Martin	0	0	8	0	0	0	8	0
McDowell	3	0	11	0	0	0	14	0
Mecklenburg	28	2	95	1	12	0	135	3
Mitchell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montgomery	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0
Moore	5	0	18	0	3	0	26	0
Nash	0	0	39	1	5	0	44	1
New Hanover	14	0	63	0	3	0	80	0
Northampton	0	0	2	0	2	0	4	0
Onslow	9	0	31	1	2	0	42	1
Orange	1	0	4	0	0	0	5	0
Pamlico	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1
Pasquotank	49	0	18	0	3	0	70	0
Pender	2	0	18	0	0	0	20	0
Perquimans	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Person	2	0	26	1	0	0	28	1
Pitt	6	0	22	1	1	0	29	1

County Name	Fleeing Felon		Parole/Probation Violator		Combined Status of Fleeing Felon & Parole/ Probation Violator		Total/Denied/Terminated	
	FNS	Work First	FNS	Work First	FNS	Work First	FNS	Work First
Polk	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Randolph	8	1	17	3	0	0	25	4
Richmond	3	0	20	1	2	0	25	1
Robeson	0	0	29	2	2	0	31	2
Rockingham	20	0	36	0	5	0	61	0
Rowan	9	0	45	0	3	0	57	0
Rutherford	6	0	34	0	0	0	40	0
Sampson	0	0	5	0	2	0	7	0
Scotland	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Stanley	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	0
Stokes	0	0	12	0	0	0	12	0
Surry	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0
Swain	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
Transylvania	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	0
Tyrrell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union	0	0	27	1	0	0	27	1
Vance	13	0	41	0	4	0	58	0
Wake	2	2	42	2	0	0	44	4
Warren	0	0	7	0	0	0	7	0
Washington	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0
Watauga	3	0	4	0	0	0	7	0
Wayne	0	0	71	1	1	0	72	1
Wilkes	0	0	12	0	0	0	12	0
Wilson	0	0	10	0	0	0	10	0
Yadkin	1	0	5	0	1	0	7	0
Yancey	0	0	11	0	1	0	12	0
<b>Statewide Totals</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1883</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2370</b>	<b>43</b>