

**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

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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 213-417 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 2015.

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 departments of social services (DSS) 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 DSS 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 staff that certain felons and parole/probation violators are prohibited from the receipt of assistance. They are terminated from assistance and benefits recouped if this information becomes known to the agency.

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS DETERMINED INELIGIBLE DURING 2015

For calendar year 2015, 1,747 individuals were identified as fugitive felons or parole/probation violators and were determined ineligible to receive assistance. This translates to 1,723 individuals for the FNS program, 93 of which had a status of both fugitive felon and parole/probation violator. There were 24 individuals determined ineligible for the Work First program. 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, 2015- December 31, 2015

County Name	Fleeing Felon		Parole/Probation Violators		Total Denied/Terminated	
	FNS	Work First	FNS	Work First	FNS	Work First
Alamance	2	0	26	1	28	1
Alexander	2	0	3	0	5	0
Alleghany	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anson	2	0	1	0	3	0
Ashe	1	0	3	0	4	0
Avery	0	0	1	0	1	0
Beaufort	3	0	7	0	10	0
Bertie	0	0	5	1	5	1
Bladen	3	0	3	0	6	0
Brunswick	0	0	17	0	17	0
Buncombe	13	1	62	1	75	2
Burke	13	0	17	0	30	0
Cabarrus	3	0	54	0	57	0
Caldwell	0	0	14	0	14	0
Camden	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carteret	2	0	21	0	23	0
Caswell	1	0	5	0	6	0
Catawba	12	0	9	0	21	0
Chatham	0	0	2	0	2	0
Cherokee	0	0	2	0	2	0
Chowan	1	0	5	0	6	0
Clay	0	0	4	0	4	0
Cleveland	4	0	15	0	19	0
Columbus	0	0	22	0	22	0
Craven	6	0	22	0	28	0
Cumberland	7	5	50	1	57	6
Currituck	0	0	12	0	12	0
Dare	0	0	18	0	18	0
Davidson	1	0	30	0	31	0
Davie	0	0	5	0	5	0
Duplin	1	0	20	0	21	0
Durham	0	1	21	0	21	1
Edgecombe	3	0	26	1	29	1
Forsyth	26	1	37	0	63	1
Franklin	5	0	4	0	9	0
Gaston	3	0	38	0	41	0
Gates	0	0	3	0	3	0
Graham	1	0	1	0	2	0

County Name	Fleeing Felon		Parole/Probation Violators		Total Denied/Terminated	
	FNS	Work First	FNS	Work First	FNS	Work First
Granville	3	0	2	0	5	0
Greene	0	0	4	0	4	0
Guilford	3	0	24	0	27	0
Halifax	1	0	17	0	18	0
Harnett	1	0	21	0	22	0
Haywood	0	0	8	0	8	0
Henderson	0	0	30	0	30	0
Hertford	1	0	2	0	3	0
Hoke	0	0	19	0	19	0
Hyde	0	0	5	0	5	0
Iredell	2	0	37	0	39	0
Jackson	0	0	2	0	2	0
Johnston	2	0	11	0	13	0
Jones	0	0	6	0	6	0
Lee	0	0	18	1	18	1
Lenoir	4	0	12	0	16	0
Lincoln	0	0	13	0	13	0
Macon	0	0	4	0	4	0
Madison	1	0	2	0	3	0
Martin	0	0	4	0	4	0
McDowell	2	0	9	0	11	0
Mecklenburg	25	1	76	1	101	2
Mitchell	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montgomery	0	0	3	0	3	0
Moore	11	0	6	0	17	0
Nash	0	0	33	0	33	0
New Hanover	15	0	44	0	59	0
Northampton	0	0	2	0	2	0
Onslow	8	0	23	1	31	1
Orange	1	0	4	0	5	0
Pamlico	0	0	2	1	2	1
Pasquotank	44	0	10	0	54	0
Pender	0	0	5	0	5	0
Perquimans	1	0	0	0	1	0
Person	2	0	20	0	22	0
Pitt	4	0	22	0	26	0
Polk	0	0	0	0	0	0
Randolph	8	0	14	2	22	2
Richmond	3	0	20	1	23	1

County Name	Fleeing Felon		Parole/Probation Violator		Total Denied/Terminated	
	FNS	Work First	FNS	Work First	FNS	Work First
Robeson	0	0	15	0	15	0
Rockingham	9	0	26	0	35	0
Rowan	9	0	41	0	50	0
Rutherford	6	0	31	0	37	0
Sampson	0	0	4	0	4	0
Scotland	0	0	1	0	1	0
Stanley	0	0	2	0	2	0
Stokes	0	0	12	0	12	0
Surry	0	0	2	0	2	0
Swain	2	0	0	0	2	0
Transylvania	0	0	3	0	3	0
Tyrrell	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union	0	0	23	1	23	1
Vance	3	0	37	0	40	0
Wake	3	0	31	2	34	2
Warren	0	0	3	0	3	0
Washington	0	0	3	0	3	0
Watauga	2	0	4	0	6	0
Wayne	0	0	48	0	48	0
Wilkes	0	0	9	0	9	0
Wilson	0	0	12	0	12	0
Yadkin	0	0	3	0	3	0
Yancey	0	0	3	0	3	0
Totals	291	9	1,432	15	1,723	24