Budget Revision # _____
Item No. _____
Board Action Date _____

Caldwell County Board of Commissioners

BUDGET REVISION

Board Meeting February 12th, 2024

Subject:

Background and explanation for the Budget Revision:
To add new funding to DSS budget based on state allocation received in February 2024. The funds are to specifically assist DSS in meeting placement needs of children with complex behavioral health needs and are 100% reimbursed up to the allocation cap. No county participation is required.

The Budget Ordinance is hereby amended by making a Supplemental Appropriation with appropriations and revenues being adjusted

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

Revenues: (Increase) / Decrease (Circle One)			**Expenditures: (Increase) / Decrease (Circle One)**		
Line Item #	Title	Amount	Line Item #	Title	Amount
105390 - 340612	Emergency Placement Funds	27,996.00	105390-443215	Emergency Placement Funds	27,996.00
Total		**27,996.00**	**Total**		**27,996.00**

Attachments (Yes or No):
Public Hearing (Yes or No):

Distribution:
Original - Finance Office
Duplicate - Clerk to the Board
Triplicate - Department Head

Staff Recommendation:

Board Action:

Department Head	Date	Finance Directo	Date	County Manager	Date
	2/1/2024		2/1/24		

Caldwell County
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Submitter: Chris Conley

Meeting Date: February 12, 2024

Agenda Section: Consent

Department: Social Services

Suggested Motion(s): Approve

SUMMARY:

To add new Emergency Placement Funds to DSS budget. The funds are available to assist DSS in securing emergency placements for children with complex behavioral health needs to prevent overnight stays at DSS offices waiting on placement availability.

Budget Impact:

Is this expenditure approved in the current fiscal year budget?

No

If no, describe how it will be funded.

100% state funded, no county participation

ATTACHMENTS:

DHHS Letter

Funding Authorization

NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER • Governor
KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary
SUSAN G. OSBORNE • Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being

January 31, 2024

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM MANAGERS, CHILD WELFARE SUPERVISORS AND FISCAL STAFF

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PLACEMENT FUND

REQUIRED ACTION: ☐ Information Only ☐ Time Sensitive ☒ Immediate

The Division of Social Services (DSS) recognizes the current situation with locating the required residential treatment placement for children in DSS custody with complex behavioral health needs. As LMEs continue to build the network of providers to meet this need, NC DSS has allocated $2,291,667 in SFY 2023-2024 and $5,500,000 in SFY 2024-2025 of the behavioral health investment in the 2023 budget and created a pilot program called DSS Emergency Placement Fund.

These funds are intended to temporarily assist county departments of social services in addressing identified placement needs for children in the custody of the agencies who are awaiting a Medicaid leveled treatment placement. While children await the location of the placement, these funds can be used to prevent them from staying in a DSS office.

The Emergency Placement Fund is to be used to temporarily provide and arrange for essential needs of the individual to establish or maintain a placement. The youth must be opened for 109 Foster Care Case Management Services on a DSS-5027 or in the Child Welfare Information System in order for client specific costs to be claimed for purposes of use #2 or #3 below.

NC DSS has identified the following promising practices which can be supported with these funds:

1. Maintain a crisis placement through a contract that pays a retainer to an identified placement provider who will accept a temporary emergency placement until the appropriate behavioral health treatment placement is located.

2. Pay a short-term temporary enhanced rate to an identified placement provider who is currently or will provide care and supervision to youth who have behaviors that require an exceptional level of supervision. For children who are awaiting a Medicaid leveled treatment placement, these funds can be used to pay a placement that will aid in meeting the child's immediate needs. The amount above the board rate will be reimbursed by submitting the DSS-1571 Part II.

3. Other local solutions that prevent a child in DSS custody from spending a night in the DSS office while waiting on the appropriate treatment placement as approved by NC DSS. The NC DSS

Approved Alternative Option form must be emailed to emergency_placement_fund@dhhs.nc.gov. Determination will be made and emailed within 2 business days.

To ensure sufficient funding for all counties including small counties, for SFY 2024-2025, all counties will receive a base amount of $20,000 and the remainder of the funds will be allocated based on each county's percentage of the foster care census. For SFY 2023-2024, all counties will be allocated a pro-rated portion equivalent to five months of the full year allocation. These amounts are listed on the attached spreadsheet.

The Emergency Placement Fund is available for use beginning February 1, 2024, with reimbursement beginning in March. No prior approval is needed by your agency to utilize this funding for purposes of use #1 or #2, only for option #3. For option #2, the additional amount paid above the board rate from these funds must be reported on the DSS-1571 Part II and counties should maintain documentation of costs claimed for audit purposes.

Any unused allocation for SFY 2023-2024 (as of June 2024 reimbursement) will be reallocated. Utilization of funds will be monitored, and your agency may be contacted to determine if allocated funds will be expended by May 31, 2025. If there are remaining funds in SFY 2024-2025, they may be reallocated to counties in need of additional funds.

If you have questions or need additional information, please send inquiries to emergency_placement_fund@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Adrian Daye, MSW
Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Cc:

Lisa Tucker Cauley, Senior Director for Child, Family, and Adult Services
Katie Swanson, Deputy Director for County Operations
Carla McNeill, Section Chief for Permanency
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Licensing and Regulatory
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations
Erin Dickmeyer, Child Welfare Financial Officer
Kim Goodwin, Chief Division Budget Officer

Attachments: Emergency Placement Funds Allocation Table
NC DSS Approved Alternative Option Form

CWS-08-2024

Emergency Placement Fund County Allocations

County	FY24	FY25
Alamance	$ 24,008	$ 57,620
Alexander	$ 14,796	$ 35,510
Alleghany	$ 13,971	$ 33,530
Anson	$ 10,533	$ 25,280
Ashe	$ 13,283	$ 31,880
Avery	$ 12,458	$ 29,900
Beaufort	$ 25,658	$ 61,580
Bertie	$ 10,808	$ 25,940
Bladen	$ 15,071	$ 36,170
Brunswick	$ 27,721	$ 66,530
Buncombe	$ 55,771	$ 133,851
Burke	$ 36,796	$ 88,310
Cabarrus	$ 32,808	$ 78,740
Caldwell	$ 27,996	$ 67,190
Camden	$ 9,296	$ 22,310
Carteret	$ 17,683	$ 42,440
Caswell	$ 10,533	$ 25,280
Catawba	$ 31,021	$ 74,450
Chatham	$ 20,296	$ 48,710
Cherokee	$ 16,721	$ 40,130
Chowan	$ 11,633	$ 27,920
Clay	$ 12,321	$ 29,570
Cleveland	$ 37,208	$ 89,300
Columbus	$ 25,108	$ 60,260
Craven	$ 24,696	$ 59,270
Cumberland	$ 73,921	$ 177,411
Currituck	$ 10,396	$ 24,950
Dare	$ 12,596	$ 30,230
Davidson	$ 29,646	$ 71,150
Davie	$ 14,658	$ 35,180
Duplin	$ 11,221	$ 26,930
Durham	$ 45,734	$ 109,761
Edgecombe	$ 13,696	$ 32,870
Forsyth	$ 41,746	$ 100,190
Franklin	$ 17,546	$ 42,110
Gaston	$ 64,434	$ 154,641
Gates	$ 8,333	$ 20,000
Graham	$ 11,496	$ 27,590
Granville	$ 12,733	$ 30,560
Greene	$ 12,871	$ 30,890
Guilford	$ 81,209	$ 194,901
Halifax	$ 10,808	$ 25,940
Harnett	$ 40,646	$ 97,550