NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

JOSH STEIN • Governor
DEVDUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary
LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

September 4, 2025

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) acknowledges the ongoing challenges in securing treatment placements for children in DSS custody with complex behavioral health needs. To help address this issue, NCDHHS DSS allocated a portion of the behavioral health investment from the 2023 Appropriations Act to the DSS Emergency Placement Fund.

At the end of SFY 2024–2025, $1,237,010 in unused Emergency Placement Funds remained and will be reallocated for SFY 2025–2026. To ensure sufficient funding for all counties, each county will receive a base amount of $10,000 and the remainder of the funds will be allocated based on each county's percentage of the foster care census. The allocated amounts are listed on the attached spreadsheet. If county expenditures exceed the county's allocation, any excess payments will be county funded.

Emergency Placement 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.

Emergency Placement Funds are 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 NCDSS. The 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.

   Please note that requests for funding a placement in an unlicensed respite facility is not an approved use of funding, even if the county child welfare agency received court approval for placement in this setting.

The Emergency Placement Funds are available for use. No prior approval is needed by your agency to utilize this funding for purposes of use #1 or #2, only for option #3. Expenditures from all EPF options must be reported on the DSS-1571 Part II and counties should maintain documentation of costs claimed for audit purposes.

A Frequently Asked Questions document is available online here and will be updated as needed. Utilization of funds will be monitored, and your agency may be contacted to determine if allocated funds will be expended by May 31, 2026.

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

Sincerely,

Adrian Daye
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 and Family, and Adult Services
Donna Fayko, Deputy Director
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Child and Family Services
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations
William "Ben" Rose, Regional Director

CWS-63-2025

Emergency Placement Fund County Allocations

County	FY26 County Allocation
Alamance	12,548
Alexander	11,041
Alleghany	11,086
Anson	10,620
Ashe	10,820
Avery	10,421
Beaufort	12,460
Bertie	10,155
Bladen	11,662
Brunswick	13,213
Buncombe	16,382
Burke	14,277
Cabarrus	13,745
Caldwell	13,235

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
MAILING ADDRESS: 2401 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2401
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6404 • FAX: 919-733-3052

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Camden	**10,022**
Carteret	**11,950**
Caswell	**10,532**
Catawba	**14,277**
Chatham	**11,728**
Cherokee	**10,620**
Chowan	**10,377**
Clay	**10,332**
Cleveland	**14,831**
Columbus	**11,839**
Craven	**12,305**
Cumberland	**25,068**
Currituck	**10,288**
Dare	**10,576**
Davidson	**15,296**
Davie	**11,041**

Duplin	**10,687**

Durham	**14,122**
Edgecombe	**11,086**
Forsyth	**14,919**
Franklin	**10,753**
Gaston	**17,733**
Gates	**10,000**
Graham	**10,931**
Granville	**10,576**
Greene	**10,598**
Guilford	**25,511**
Halifax	**10,731**
Harnett	**14,387**
Haywood	**12,836**
Henderson	**12,681**
Hertford	**10,155**
Hoke	**11,285**
Hyde	**10,111**

Iredell	**13,014**
Jackson	**11,573**
Johnston	**14,122**
Jones	**10,332**
Lee	**10,709**
Lenoir	**12,127**
Lincoln	**11,507**
Macon	**11,064**
Madison	**10,421**
Martin	**10,709**
McDowell	**12,282**
Mecklenburg	**18,974**
Mitchell	**10,510**
Montgomery	**10,465**
Moore	**11,352**
Nash	**11,928**

New Hanover	**14,254**

Northampton	**10,066**
Onslow	**12,305**
Orange	**11,684**
Pamlico	**10,377**
Pasquotank	**10,753**
Pender	**11,485**
Perquimans	**10,399**
Person	**11,551**
Pitt	**14,520**
Polk	**11,086**
Randolph	**13,235**
Richmond	**12,105**
Robeson	**18,487**
Rockingham	**13,634**
Rowan	**13,390**
Rutherford	**13,922**
Sampson	**12,305**

Scotland	**11,440**
Stanly	**11,640**
Stokes	**12,903**
Surry	**13,346**
Swain	**11,197**
Transylvania	**10,620**
Tyrell	**10,000**
Union	**13,457**
Vance	**11,972**
Wake	**21,656**
Warren	**10,111**
Washington	**10,620**
Watauga	**11,108**
Wayne	**12,216**
Wilkes	**14,188**
Wilson	**10,598**

Yadkin	**10,931**

Yancey	**10,510**

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