



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being

January 4, 2024

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS,
SUPERVISORS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS**

**SUBJECT: VIRTUAL YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION (CLOSING THE
LOOP ON THE LISTENING SESSIONS)**

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive Immediate

The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, LINKS in North Carolina, assists current and former eligible foster care youth and young adults ages 14–21 in achieving self-sufficiency through support services, resources, and LINKS Special Funds.

NC Division of Social Services (NCDSS) hosted an in-person Transitional Age Youth and Young Adults Strategic Planning Kick-off session in November 2023. The purpose of the session was to share the valuable information gathered from the listening sessions in all regions across North Carolina from November 2022 to July 2023 and implement mini strategic planning sessions with transitional age youth.

NCDSS is excited to inform you that we will be hosting two Virtual Transitional Age Youth and Young Adults Dissemination and Strategic Planning Sessions (Closing the Loop on the Listening Sessions). **Virtual Strategic Planning Sessions are scheduled for January 30, 2024, and February 1, 2024. Please register for one of the following sessions no later than January 23, 2024:**

1. Tuesday, January 30, 2024, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm
<https://attendee.gototraining.com/rt/6308923389095655937>
2. Thursday, February 1, 2024, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm
<https://attendee.gototraining.com/rt/6308923389095655937>

All youth and young adults who were unable to attend the 2022/2023 Youth and Young Adult Listening Sessions are welcome to attend and participate in the upcoming Strategic Planning Sessions.

To encourage event participation, a stipend will be available for all eligible youth and young adults in the amount of \$100.00 using the LINKS Transitional Funds.

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
MAILING ADDRESS: 2410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2410 www.ncdhs.gov
• TEL: 919-527-6404 • FAX: 919-733-3052

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

The registration process:

1. The county should identify one staff member to serve as the point of contact for your agency.
2. The point of contact should register all staff members, youth, and young adults who will attend.
3. Community partners can register individually if needed.

The reimbursement process:

Counties should complete and submit a DSS-5217 LINKS Reimbursement Form via email when requesting the \$100.00 incentive for attending youth and young adults. Please include all youth and young adults' incentive requests on the same reimbursement form submitted by your county.

All requests should be submitted by email to linksreimbursement@dhhs.nc.gov. Please ensure the subject line includes your county name *and* is labeled Feedback and Joint Planning Incentive Reimbursement.

For any questions, please contact Tori Marshall, State LINKS Coordinator at Tori.Marshall@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Carla McNeill

Carla McNeill, MSW
Section Chief for Permanency Planning
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Lisa Tucker Cauley, Senior Director of Human Services
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Katie Swanson, Deputy Director for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations

Attachment: Virtual Transitional Age Youth and Young Adult Listening Session Feedback and Strategic Planning Flyer

CWS 01-24