



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 30, 2024

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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

**SUBJECT: SFY 2023-24 FUNDING AUTHORIZATIONS**

**REQUIRED ACTION:**  Information Only  Time Sensitive  Immediate

**PURPOSE: FUNDING AUTHORIZATIONS AND CORRECTION TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION SERVICES FUNDING**

**Funding Authorizations**

The North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) published Funding Authorizations for County DSS agencies, indicating available funding/budgets for various programs. Those can be found at: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/county-staff-information/budget-information/information-county-departments-social-services#FundingAuthorizationsforSFY2023-24-4871>. As you are aware, counties can claim reimbursement up to the maximum amount allocated in the individual funding authorization.

There was a delay in the release of some Funding Authorizations at the beginning of this fiscal year, with some not released until early October. This was related to the state budget not being passed at this point. However, when Funding Authorizations are not released, the County Admin Reimbursement System (CARS) does not have a cap in place until those Funding Authorizations are coded in. This led to overpayments to some counties for the Family Reunification fund, those who in the first quarter keyed for reimbursement amounts above the annual Budget Estimate value. Once the Funding Authorizations were released, counties who received reimbursements above that amount had the overage reclassified to all-county funding, as is the normal course of operations for overages. Those counties who did not overclaim budget in this timeframe felt no impact.

In addition to this issue, NCDSS previously provided guidance on the Family Reunification Services through a Dear County Director Letter (DCDL), dated September 28, 2023. This DCDL instructed county child welfare agencies to stop submitting requests to NCDSS for reimbursement of federal funds for Family Reunification Services. At that time, there was concern that all funds had been utilized. However, that was not the case. This issue was recognized, Funding Authorizations were released in early October and correcting entries had been made in CARS. No further action is needed on your part. We apologize for the confusion generated by this issue.

If you have any questions, please contact your county's Local Business Liaison (LBL).

Sincerely,

Erin Dickmeyer  
Child Welfare Financial Officer

cc: Lisa T. Cauley, Senior Director of Human Services  
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice  
Katie Swanson, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Operations  
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing  
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations  
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention  
Richard Stegenga, Director, Business Operations  
Kim Goodwin, DSS Budget Officer  
Erin Dickmeyer, Child Welfare Financial Officer  
Local Business Liaisons

CWS-06-2024

**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](http://www.ncdhhs.gov) • TEL: 919-855-6335 • FAX: 919-334-1018

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