



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

**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: 919-855-6335 • FAX: 919-334-1018

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Approved Alternative Option form must be emailed to [emergency\\_placement\\_fund@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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

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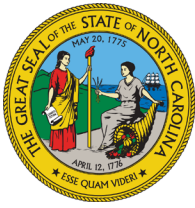
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## Emergency Placement Fund County Allocations

| <b>County</b> | <b>FY24</b> | <b>FY25</b> |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| 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   |

|             |           |            |
|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Haywood     | \$ 24,558 | \$ 58,940  |
| Henderson   | \$ 25,108 | \$ 60,260  |
| Hertford    | \$ 8,746  | \$ 20,990  |
| Hoke        | \$ 16,171 | \$ 38,810  |
| Hyde        | \$ 9,433  | \$ 22,640  |
| Iredell     | \$ 24,696 | \$ 59,270  |
| Jackson     | \$ 19,608 | \$ 47,060  |
| Johnston    | \$ 35,421 | \$ 85,010  |
| Jones       | \$ 10,121 | \$ 24,290  |
| Lee         | \$ 11,496 | \$ 27,590  |
| Lenoir      | \$ 14,933 | \$ 35,840  |
| Lincoln     | \$ 20,158 | \$ 48,380  |
| Macon       | \$ 17,546 | \$ 42,110  |
| Madison     | \$ 11,633 | \$ 27,920  |
| Martin      | \$ 12,871 | \$ 30,890  |
| McDowell    | \$ 23,183 | \$ 55,640  |
| Mecklenburg | \$ 76,809 | \$ 184,341 |
| Mitchell    | \$ 13,971 | \$ 33,530  |
| Montgomery  | \$ 11,908 | \$ 28,580  |
| Moore       | \$ 18,096 | \$ 43,430  |
| Nash        | \$ 15,896 | \$ 38,150  |
| New Hanover | \$ 42,434 | \$ 101,840 |
| Northampton | \$ 8,746  | \$ 20,990  |
| Onslow      | \$ 26,483 | \$ 63,560  |
| Orange      | \$ 20,296 | \$ 48,710  |
| Pamlico     | \$ 9,296  | \$ 22,310  |
| Pasquotank  | \$ 11,221 | \$ 26,930  |
| Pender      | \$ 17,408 | \$ 41,780  |
| Perquimans  | \$ 9,846  | \$ 23,630  |
| Person      | \$ 19,058 | \$ 45,740  |
| Pitt        | \$ 32,258 | \$ 77,420  |
| Polk        | \$ 14,796 | \$ 35,510  |
| Randolph    | \$ 37,208 | \$ 89,300  |
| Richmond    | \$ 24,696 | \$ 59,270  |
| Robeson     | \$ 62,784 | \$ 150,681 |
| Rockingham  | \$ 30,196 | \$ 72,470  |
| Rowan       | \$ 32,533 | \$ 78,080  |
| Rutherford  | \$ 29,646 | \$ 71,150  |
| Sampson     | \$ 21,946 | \$ 52,670  |
| Scotland    | \$ 19,196 | \$ 46,070  |
| Stanly      | \$ 13,971 | \$ 33,530  |
| Stokes      | \$ 21,808 | \$ 52,340  |
| Surry       | \$ 23,458 | \$ 56,300  |
| Swain       | \$ 15,346 | \$ 36,830  |

|              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Transylvania | \$ 14,796    | \$ 35,510    |
| Tyrell       | \$ 8,746     | \$ 20,990    |
| Union        | \$ 27,446    | \$ 65,870    |
| Vance        | \$ 16,171    | \$ 38,810    |
| Wake         | \$ 69,246    | \$ 166,191   |
| Warren       | \$ 8,883     | \$ 21,320    |
| Washington   | \$ 11,358    | \$ 27,260    |
| Watauga      | \$ 16,583    | \$ 39,800    |
| Wayne        | \$ 18,371    | \$ 44,090    |
| Wilkes       | \$ 38,171    | \$ 91,610    |
| Wilson       | \$ 13,421    | \$ 32,210    |
| Yadkin       | \$ 17,133    | \$ 41,120    |
| Yancey       | \$ 12,458    | \$ 29,900    |
|              |              |              |
|              | \$ 2,291,667 | \$ 5,500,000 |



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## NC DSS Approved Alternative Option

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

| Item | Description | Cost |
|------|-------------|------|
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Director/Authorized Designee Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Submission: Approved

Denied

Denial Explanation

Reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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