



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

SUSAN G. OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for Human Services

**March 10, 2023**

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES,**

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

**SUBJECT: National Social Work Month**

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

**SOCIAL WORK  
BREAKS BARRIERS**

North Carolina Division of Social Services is pleased to acknowledge the month of March is “National Social Work Month.” The official 2023 theme is “Social Work Breaks Barriers.” National Social Work Month was organized in March of 1963 by the National Association of Social Workers to encourage public support for the profession. Social Work, often understated, is a valuable and integral part of every community in North Carolina.

Child Welfare Social Workers, Supervisors, and Managers-- **We CELEBRATE You; We HONOR You; and We THANK You** for your hard work and dedication to building and strengthening families and establishing permanent connections for children. For example, when most of us were quarantined at home, social workers were at the forefront of the global Covid-19 pandemic, making sure children and families received resources to ensure safety and well-being.

The month-long observance gives every community an opportunity to create more awareness of the social work profession and highlight how social workers provide a vital service to every community. For more information and resources, including Governor Roy Cooper’s proclamation, the rationale for Social Work Month, celebratory events in NC, social media toolkit, etc., go to <https://www.naswnc.org/>

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

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

*Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.*  
— Helen Keller, U.S. author, educator, and disability rights advocate

Sincerely,

Peter L. West

Peter L. West,  
Section Chief for County Operations  
Division of Social Services

Cc: Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for Human Services  
Lisa Tucker Cauley, Senior Director of Child, Family and Adult Services  
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice  
Tammy Shook, Interim Deputy Director for County Operations  
Carla McNeill, Section Chief for Permanency Planning  
Kimaree Sanders, Interim Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing  
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services

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