



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

SUSAN G. OSBORNE • Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being

June 7, 2023

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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

**SUBJECT: REGIONAL YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS LISTENING SESSIONS EXPERIENCES**

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

**PURPOSE: INFORMATION REGARDING TWO UPCOMING VIRTUAL LISTENING SESSIONS**

Over the past six months, North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) has been hosting a series of in-person Regional Youth and Young Adults Listening Sessions. Valuable information and feedback were gathered during each regional listening session from young people about LINKS Independent Living Services, Foster Care 18 to 21, and North Carolina's overall permanency services.

NCDSS acknowledges there may have been young people unable to attend the in-person Regional Listening Sessions. To ensure that the feedback of these young people is obtained, NCDSS will be hosting two Virtual Listening Sessions.

The dates and times for each session are as follows:

- Tuesday, July 18, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 18, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Each county agency should complete the following steps to register for the virtual listening session:

1. Identify one staff member to serve as the point of contact for your agency;
2. Select one virtual session for your county participants to attend;
3. The point of contact should register all staff members, youth and young adults that will participate;
4. The point of contact will ensure that registered staff members, youth and young adults receive the emailed link for your virtual session.

Agencies should select youth and young adults to attend the session based on the following criteria:

- Young people between the ages of 14 to 20 and currently or formerly in foster care in North Carolina;
- Young people who are actively engaged in LINKS and other programs (e.g., NC REACH), as well as those who may *not* be engaged or *less* engaged in these services;
- Youth who are willing to share honest verbal feedback during the virtual focus group session.

**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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Youth that participate are eligible to receive a stipend of \$100.00 from LINKS transitional funds. Please follow the same DSS-5217 reimbursement process when requesting the \$100.00 incentive for registered youth and young adults who attended the virtual listening session (all youth who attended should be on one DSS-5217 Form).

Please ensure the subject line includes your county name *and* Regional Listening Session Incentive Reimbursement and email the form to [linksreimbursement@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:linksreimbursement@dhhs.nc.gov).

If you have any youth, young adults and staff members interested in participating, please register at: [Registration for 7/18 Virtual Youth Input Session](#) no later than July 10, 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact Tori Marshall, State LINKS Coordinator at [Tori.Marshall@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Tori.Marshall@dhhs.nc.gov) or Special Programs Manager, Shirley Williams at [Shirley.Williams@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Shirley.Williams@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,

*Carla McNeill*

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

Cc: Susan Osborne, Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being  
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  
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services  
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing  
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations

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