



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

May 29, 2024

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**ATTENTION:** Directors, Child Welfare Program Managers, Child Welfare Supervisors, and Social Workers

**SUBJECT:** Change to form DSS-5120-E Determination of Foster Care 18-21 Assistance Benefits

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

**PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:** Revised form

The North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) is releasing this letter to announce changes to the [DSS5120-E Determination of Benefits](#) form to ensure compliance with AFDC eligibility and the DSS Permanency Planning Manual.

Young adults who are married and entering or participating in the Foster Care 18 to 21 program are not required to include their spouse's income in determination of benefits. Determinations for young adults ages 18 and over should be made *without* regard to the parents/legal guardians or others in the assistance unit in the home from which the young adult was removed as a youth *and* without regard to the young adult's spouse. Please review the [Foster Care Funding Appendix 3.5](#) for additional information on IV-E eligibility.

For questions, please contact Sarah Phillips, Foster Care 18-21 State Coordinator at [sarah.phillips@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:sarah.phillips@dhhs.nc.gov) or Beth Riley, IV-E Child Welfare Eligibility and Compliance Manager at [beth.riley@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:beth.riley@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,

**Adrian W. Daye**

Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice

Division of Social Services, Child Welfare

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Lisa Tucker Cauley, Division Director of Human Services  
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:** DSS-5120-E

CWS-42-2024

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