



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor
KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary
SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for Human Services

September 8, 2022

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

**SUBJECT: INPUT SESSIONS FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS IN FOSTER CARE REGARDING
THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH NC LINKS and FOSTER CARE 18–21 SERVICES**

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

**PURPOSE: INFORM AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS OF UPCOMING INPUT SESSIONS FOR YOUTH
AND YOUNG ADULTS IN FOSTER CARE**

The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, LINKS in North Carolina, assists current and former eligible foster care youth and young adults ages 14–21 in achieving self-sufficiency through support services, resources, and LINKS Special Funds.

In the fall of 2022, NC Division of Social Services (NCDSS) will begin hosting a series of in-person events for youth input sessions. NCDSS hopes to improve LINKS and related programs and services by hearing directly from youth and young adults who are or who have been in foster care in North Carolina. The dates and locations of these input sessions will be as follows:

Saturday, October 8, 2022	10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Region 7	Greenville, NC
Monday, November 7, 2022	6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Region 2	Hickory, NC
Saturday, January 21, 2023	10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Region 4	Charlotte, NC
Thursday, February 16, 2023	6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Region 5	Raleigh, NC
Tuesday, March 14, 2023	6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Region 3	Greensboro, NC
Monday, March 27, 2023	6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Region 1	Asheville, NC
Saturday, April 15, 2023	10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Region 6	Fayetteville, NC

County child welfare agencies will be invited to send a total of three youth and/or young adults along with two child welfare staff members to attend the input session for their region. Due to the size of the venues, the limit of five attendees ensures that all counties have representation.

We ask each agency to identify one staff member to serve as a point of contact for the event in your region. This point person should register all youth and/or young adults along with the two staff members attending from your county.

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
MAILING ADDRESS: 2410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2410
www.ncdhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6340 • FAX: 919-334-1123

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

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

- Youth should be between the ages of 14 to 21 and currently in foster care in NC *or* between the ages of 14 to 21 and formerly in foster care in NC.
- As NCDSS seeks to receive constructive feedback on how services and programs can be improved, counties should send young people who are actively engaged in LINKS and other programs (e.g., NC REACH), as well as young people who are *not* engaged or who are *less* engaged in these services.
- Youth should be willing to fully participate in the session, including giving honest verbal feedback to NCDSS during a focus group.

NCDSS hopes to encourage event attendance by providing the following:

- Attendance stipends and door prizes for registered youth
- Light refreshments for all registered participants
- Time for youth to socialize and get to know each other
- Information about resources and programs that will be shared with young people and families

Prior to each event, NCDSS will send out a flyer with registration information specific to each region. County child welfare agencies should be on the lookout for this information.

If you have any questions, please contact Tori Marshall, State LINKS Coordinator at Tori.Marshall@dhhs.nc.gov

Sincerely,

Carla McNeill

Carla McNeill, MSW
Section Chief for Permanency Planning
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human
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
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services
Kimaree Sanders, Interim Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations

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