



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

Lisa Tucker Cauley • Division Director, Human Services

June 28, 2024

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO ADOPTION ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY

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

The purpose of this letter is to provide counties with an update to several Adoption Assistance Eligibility changes that are effective July 1, 2024. Since the passage of the Fostering Connections Act, The Administration of Children and Families (ACF) has been phasing out needs-based requirements for Title IV-E Adoption Assistance payments. The phasing out was temporarily paused during the implementation of The Family First Prevention Services Act but has now resumed and will be complete after June 30, 2024. As of July 1, 2024, all children who are adopted from foster care in North Carolina will be considered “applicable children.”

Adoption Assistance Eligibility requirements as of July 1, 2024:

- **Requirements that continue:**
 - Children will still need to be US citizens or qualified aliens
 - Children will still need to meet the three special needs requirements
 - Children will still need to meet one of the “other” requirements related to the child’s placement in foster care.
- **Requirement that is eliminated:**
 - Regardless of a child’s age, removal from a home that met the 1996 guidelines for AFDC will no longer be required.

Changes for Counties:

- **New forms and policy effective July 1, 2024:**
 - Revisions to Appendix 3.6, Adoption Assistance Funding Manual
 - A Revised Form 5012, Adoption Assistance Eligibility Checklist
 - A Revised Form 5013, Adoption Assistance Agreement
- **Expectations for counties:**
 - Counties should use the revised 5012 and 5013 for all adoptions after July 1, 2024.

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On **Wednesday, July 30, 2024**, from **10:00AM-11:30AM**, NCDSS will host a 90-minute webinar on Change to Assistance Eligibility. Please register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/283844863978780766>.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation pop up box containing information about joining the webinar.

If you have questions, please contact Beth Riley, Child Welfare Eligibility and Compliance Manager, (beth.riley@dhhs.nc.gov) at 336-608-8322.

Sincerely,

Kimaree Sanders

Kimaree Sanders, MSW, MPA
Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Lisa Tucker Cauley, Division Director, Human Services
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director of Child Welfare Practice
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations

ATTACHMENTS:

DSS-5012
DSS-5013

CWS-50-2024