



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Social Services

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being

August 31, 2023

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, ADOPTION PROGRAM MANAGERS, AND ADOPTION SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT: ADOPTION PROMOTION PROGRAM FUND (APP)

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive Immediate

Annually, the North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) provides baselines and program updates for the Adoption Promotion Program (APP) to the county child welfare agencies. In following that same practice, this letter provides the APP fund baseline information for SFY 2023—2024, which began on July 1, 2023, and will end June 30, 2024.

While the purpose of this letter is to share the baselines and programs for the APP Fund, it is just as important to recognize the dedication and partnership of the county child welfare agencies and the private child placing agencies with the NCDSS. This partnership resulted in 1063 children and youth achieving permanency through adoption during the SFY beginning July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

The APP is a fee-for-service program for contracted private child placing agencies, who are licensed specifically for adoption. The participating agencies must be licensed as an adoption agency under the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS).

The APP offers a one-time, year-end, proportional funding allocation for county child welfare agencies that meet any of the below requirements:

- a. exceed a predetermined federal baseline or
- b. complete adoptions of teens and/or
- c. sibling groups of 3 or more who are placed together for adoption under the established baseline.

Additionally, the private and county agencies must agree that Adoptive Family Readiness, Family Post Placement Support, Child Post Placement Support, and Legal Services will be provided by the private agency.

Questions regarding the APP can be directed to Mary Mackins at Mary.Mackins@dhhs.nc.gov. *All DSS quarterly submissions and contract agency requests for payments should be emailed directly to app.contracts@dhhs.nc.gov.*

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

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
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www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6390 • FAX: 919-733-3052

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Thank you for your continuous dedication and support to the children and families of North Carolina.

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: Lisa Tucker Cauley, Senior Director of Child, Family and Adult Services
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Katie Swanson, 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

Attachments:

1. APP Fact Sheet for SFY 2023—2024
2. Adoption Promotion Criteria and Guidelines
3. DSS-5320A Contract Agency Monthly Adoption Reporting and Payment Form
4. DSS-5113 Adoption Services Agreement

CWS-53-2023

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