



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

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

August 18, 2023

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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

**SUBJECT: REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR UNLICENSED KINSHIP PROVIDERS, SENATE BILL 20**

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

The General Assembly, during the 2023 legislative session with [Senate Bill 20](#), established a reimbursement fund to assist in supporting unlicensed kinship care providers who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption and are providing foster care as defined under G.S. 131D-10.2(9).

The definition of relative according to North Carolina General Statute § 7B-101 (18a) is “An individual directly related to the juvenile by blood, marriage, or adoption, including, but not limited to, a grandparent, sibling, aunt, or uncle.” Relative by marriage can occur even if the marriage has been dissolved by death or divorce. The preceding definition of relative includes relation within the fifth degree of kinship to the child. This includes, but is not limited to, a parent, grandparent, sibling, great grandparent, uncle or aunt, nephew or niece, great-great grandparent, great-uncle or aunt, first cousin, great-great-great grandparent, great-great uncle or aunt, or a first cousin once removed. Also included is any relationship above preceded by step or half.”

With the new legislation in Senate Bill 20, it was determined that more specific kinship information was needed to implement the parameters of the law. To gather this specified level of kinship information, the North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) has partnered with Public Knowledge (PK) to survey counties regarding their kinship efforts.

To complete this survey, counties may need to consult with different personnel for important information. However, your support is essential in the completion of the survey as it will contribute to the development of policy regarding these payments. Please follow the link to complete the survey:

<https://forms.office.com/r/mz8nz6UsqB>. **Survey responses are due by August 28, 2023.**

Another important component of the Senate Bill 20 legislation are the reimbursement rates set for unlicensed kinship providers. The law is not intended to make the participation in this program optional; therefore, all counties are expected to participate in the unlicensed reimbursement payment program in partnership with the State in the following manner:

**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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1. Use of the current Foster Care and Adoption Assistance board rates.
2. Take one quarter (1/4) of the board rate for county participation rate.
3. The State would participate at the rate of one quarter (1/4) of the board rate.

The chart below illustrates the newly increased Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Rates as of July 1, 2023. It is important to have the current board rates, as Senate Bill 20 provides that unlicensed kinship providers are reimbursed at half the board rate.

**Effective July 1, 2023**, the Standard Board Rate:

Child Age Group	Standard Board Rate
0-5	\$702 / month
6-12	\$742 / month
13 and up	\$810 / month

**Effective November 16, 2023**, the approximate half board reimbursement rates for unlicensed kinship foster care by State and county participation are displayed below:

Child Age Group	Standard Board Rate	State Participation	County Participation
0-5	\$351 / month	175.50	175.50
6-12	\$371 / month	185	185
13 and up	\$405 / month	202.50	202.50

The full development of the unlicensed kinship policy and program implementation is underway with more detailed information forthcoming. This communication is to share the statutory mandates and their effective dates of implementation.

For any questions, please contact the Adoption Manager Mary Mackins at [Mary.Mackins@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Mary.Mackins@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,



Adrian Daye, MSW  
 Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice  
 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  
 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  
 Carla McNeill, Section Chief for Permanency Planning

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