



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being

August 24, 2023

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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

**SUBJECT: YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS FEEDBACK AND REPORT DISSEMINATION SESSION**

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

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.

Beginning November 2022 through July 2023, the North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) hosted a series of regionally based in-person and virtual Youth and Young Adults Listening Sessions to hear specifically from young people with current or prior experience in the North Carolina Child Welfare Program.

As a follow-up to those valuable sessions and to introduce information from the final and official report, NCDSS will be hosting an in-person Feedback Session with all the youth and young adults with current or prior foster care experience. This event is the kick-off to disseminating the information learned during the listening sessions. During the feedback session, the themes from the listening sessions will be shared, as well as the plan to further disseminate the information learned and finally initiate beginning steps to programmatic planning and updating.

The Feedback Session will be held on *Saturday, September 16, 2023*, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Alamance Community College located at 1247 Jimmie Kerr Rd, Graham, NC 27253.

All youth and young adults who were unable to attend the Youth and Young Adult Listening Sessions are welcome to attend and participate in the Feedback Session.

To encourage event attendance:

- A stipend will be available for all eligible youth and young adults in the amount of \$100.00 using the LINKS Transitional Funds.
- Lunch will be provided for all registered participants.
- Time will be available for meet and greet.
- Vendors will be onsite with program materials and resources.

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

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

**The registration process:**

1. The county should identify one staff member to serve as the point of contact for your agency.
2. The point of contact should register all staff members, youth, and young adults who will attend.

Please register at [https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cYet8J7IQ1w3QBU](https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cYet8J7IQ1w3QBU) before the September 11, 2023, deadline.

**The reimbursement process:**

Counties should complete and submit a DSS-5217 LINKS Reimbursement Form when requesting the \$100.00 incentive for attending youth and young adults. Please include all youth and young adults' incentive requests on the same reimbursement form submitted by your county.

All requests should be submitted by email to [linksreimbursement@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:linksreimbursement@dhhs.nc.gov). Please ensure the subject line includes your county name *and* is labeled Feedback and Joint Planning Incentive Reimbursement.

If you have any questions, please contact Tori Marshall, State LINKS Coordinator at [Tori.Marshall@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto: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: Lisa Tucker Cauley, Senior Director of Child, Family and Adult Services  
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice  
Katherine 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

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