



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

August 2, 2024

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

**SUBJECT: CONGREGATE CARE BRIDGE FUNDING – CARRY FORWARD FOR
THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025**

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive Immediate

PURPOSE: This letter provides county DSS agencies with updated funding information for congregate care state bridge funding.

Section 6.9 of SL 2023-14 provided nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 state fiscal year to assist counties and the state given the loss of federal IV-E funding for congregate care under the Families First Prevention Service Act and extended the current bridge funding allocation. To date, no funding has been provided for the 2024-2025 state fiscal year. However, SL 2024-40, enacted in July 2024, allows nonrecurring funds from the state fiscal year 2023-24 to remain available until December 31, 2024. This includes the bridge funding for congregate care from SL 2023-14.

Of the \$11.8 million appropriated for SFY24, there is approximately \$2.5 million remaining available to carry into SFY25. Based on historical utilization, NC DSS projects that the \$2.5 million will cover costs for 3 months for all eligible placements, including newly added eligibles. These funds will be effective as soon as they are certified, first to reimburse June (paid July service dates), then moving forward for July and August (paid August and September service dates respectively). The funding distribution will continue under the current process, for the three months above. County agencies should continue to follow the original guidance provided for data entry. If any additional funds are included in the SFY25 state budget, passed at a later date, NC DSS will review capability to retroactively reimburse counties for any costs incurred after that 3-month period, as available. NC DSS will continue to assess the availability of additional funding.

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

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For previous guidance on the bridge funding for congregate care, please see the previously released Dear County Director Letters, referenced below:

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/cws442021/download?attachment>

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/cws442021a/download?attachment>

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/cws482023/download?attachment>

If you have any questions, please contact Erin Dickmeyer, Child Welfare Finance Officer at Erin.Dickmeyer@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Erin Dickmeyer
Child Welfare Finance Officer
Division of Social Services

cc: Lisa Tucker Cauley, Division Director of Human Services
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention
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Regional Child Welfare Consultants
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Kim Goodwin, Budget Officer
Local Business Liaisons

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