



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

July 26, 2024

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: CHAFEE (NC LINKS) SPECIAL FUNDS

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

North Carolina's Chafee (NC LINKS) Special Funds, also known as North Carolina's Transitional Funds and Housing Funds, are available to reimburse counties for expenditures made for eligible youth and young adults with life goals and needs connected to NC LINKS outcomes. Each month, LINKS Reimbursements may be filed through a completed DSS 5217 form.

Beginning **August 1, 2024**, counties are required to submit their **LINKS Reimbursements by the 5th day of each month for reimbursement of the previous month**. This allows for adequate monitoring and timely submission to the State Controller's Office. Counties must submit a request for reimbursements no later than August 5th for services or payments rendered in July. Please do not hold and then submit multiple months of reimbursements at one time.

Below are allotted amounts for Transitional and Housing Funds for fiscal year 2024-2025:

- Transitional Funds: \$756,334.00
- Housing Funds: \$210,000.00

Transitional funds up to \$3,000.00 per eligible young person per state fiscal year are available to provide financial assistance to youth and young adults, ages 14 to 21, who are or were in foster care at age 14 or older.

NC LINKS Transitional Funds cannot be used for rent, rent deposits, room and board, or down payments on housing. Transitional Funds can be used for goods and services that support the accomplishment of the NC LINKS program outcomes including, but not limited to:

- Appropriate uniforms for work or school
- Assistance with transportation
- Expenses related to age or developmentally appropriate activities
- \$500 incentive to youth or young adults who complete high school, GED, 2-year degree, 4-year degree, or a vocational credential
- Up to \$650 to assist with youth or young adults with vehicle insurance in accordance with state regulations

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LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603

MAILING ADDRESS: 2401 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2401

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- Up to \$1,500 match towards the youth or young adult's purchase of a vehicle (for the purpose of transportation to school, work, etc)

Housing Funds up to \$1,500.00 per eligible young adult, per state fiscal year, are available to young adults who have aged out of foster care at 18 but are not yet 21 years of age. This includes young adults in Foster Care 18 to 21.

Housing Funds must only be used for:

- Rent
- Rent Deposits
- Room and Board Arrangements

All LINKS reimbursements **must** be submitted by email to linksreimbursement@dhhs.nc.gov. Please ensure that the subject line of your email includes your county name, the month of reimbursement and must be labeled: LINKS Reimbursement (ex: Gates August LINKS Reimbursement).

For any questions, please contact Tori Marshall, State LINKS Coordinator at Tori.Marshall@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Adrian W. Daye,
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 Human Services
Ben Rose, Lead Regional Director
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Child and Family Services

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