

NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor
KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary
LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

October 4, 2024

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM MANAGERS, CHILD WELFARE SUPERVISORS AND FISCAL STAFF

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PLACEMENT FUND & CONGREGATE CARE BRIDGE FUNDING

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

We are sharing some good news, NC DHHS has secured funding for the entire State Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the congregate care Bridge Funding. These funds will cover the loss of IV-E revenue for children in congregate care that occurred due to the Family First Prevention Services Act.

Background

The Division of Social Services (DSS) recognizes the current situation with locating the required residential treatment placement for children in DSS custody with complex behavioral health needs. As LMEs continue to build the network of providers to meet this need, NCDSS allocated \$2,291,667 in SFY 2023-2024 and \$5,500,000 in SFY 2024-2025 of the behavioral health investment in the 2023 Appropriations Act and created the pilot program, DSS Emergency Placement Fund.

At the end of SFY 2023-2024, there were unused funds remaining from the initial allocation of the Emergency Placement Funds. While the remaining funds were combined with the funding for SFY 2024-2025, there was an identified need to support counties with the cost of maintaining congregate care placements. Of the total available Emergency Placement Funds for SFY 2024-2025, \$2,500,000 has been reallocated to provide additional "Bridge Funding." Therefore, the original 2024-2025 Emergency Placement Fund allocation to counties has been decreased to a new total of \$4,355,690.

Congregate Care Bridge Funding

As a reminder, 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. NCDSS received approval to carry forward approximately \$2.5 million that was remaining of that funding into SFY 2025. NCDHHS has allocated \$5 million to support this funding. With the additional \$2.5 million allocation from the Emergency Placement Funds, a total of approximately \$10 million will now be allocated to fully support congregate care bridge funding for SFY 2025.

County agencies should continue to follow the original guidance provided for data entry.

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/cws602024/download?attachment>
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/cws442021/download?attachment>
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/cws442021a/download?attachment>
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/cws482023/download?attachment>

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: 919-527-6404 • FAX: 919-733-3052

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Emergency Placement Funds

Emergency Placement Funds are intended to temporarily assist county departments of social services in addressing identified placement needs for children in the custody of the agencies who are awaiting a Medicaid leveled treatment placement. While children await the location of the placement, these funds can be used to prevent them from staying in a DSS office.

The Emergency Placement Fund is to be used to temporarily provide and arrange for essential needs of the individual to establish or maintain a placement. The youth must be opened for 109 Foster Care Case Management Services on a DSS-5027 or in the Child Welfare Information System in order for client specific costs to be claimed for purposes of use #2 or #3 below.

NC DSS has identified the following promising practices which can be supported with these funds:

1. Maintain a crisis placement through a contract that pays a retainer to an identified placement provider who will accept a temporary emergency placement until the appropriate behavioral health treatment placement is located.
2. Pay a short-term temporary enhanced rate to an identified placement provider who is currently or will provide care and supervision to youth who have behaviors that require an exceptional level of supervision. For children who are awaiting a Medicaid leveled treatment placement, these funds can be used to pay a placement that will aid in meeting the child's immediate needs. The amount above the board rate will be reimbursed by submitting the DSS-1571 Part II.
3. Other local solutions that prevent a child in DSS custody from spending a night in the DSS office while waiting on the appropriate treatment placement as approved by NCDSS. The DSS [Approved Alternative Option form](#) must be emailed to emergency_placement_fund@dhhs.nc.gov. Determination will be made and emailed within 2 business days.

To ensure sufficient funding for all counties including small counties, for SFY 2024-2025, all counties will receive a base amount of \$20,000 and the remainder of the funds will be allocated based on each county's percentage of the foster care census. These amounts are listed on the attached spreadsheet.

The Emergency Placement Funds are available for use. No prior approval is needed by your agency to utilize this funding for purposes of use #1 or #2, only for option #3. Expenditures from all EPF options must be reported on the DSS-1571 Part II and counties should maintain documentation of costs claimed for audit purposes.

A Frequently Asked Questions document is available online [here](#) and will be updated as needed. Utilization of funds will be monitored, and your agency may be contacted to determine if allocated funds will be expended by May 31, 2025. If there are remaining funds in SFY 2024-2025, they may be reallocated to counties in need of additional funds or to support other behavioral health initiatives.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding Emergency Placement Funds, please send inquiries to emergency_placement_fund@dhhs.nc.gov.

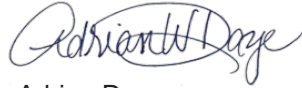
If you have questions or need additional information regarding bridge funding, please contact Erin Dickmeyer, Child Welfare Financial Officer, at erin.dickmeyer@dhhs.nc.gov.

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Sincerely,



Adrian 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 for Child and Family, and Adult Services
Donna Fayko, Interim Deputy Director
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Child and Family Services
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations
Erin Dickmeyer, Child Welfare Financial Officer
Kim Goodwin, Chief Division Budget Officer

Attachments: Emergency Placement Funds
Allocation Table NCDSS
Approved Alternative Option Form
Frequently Asked Questions Document

CWS-73-2024

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Emergency Placement Fund County Allocations

County	FY 2025
ALAMANCE	\$ 43,436
ALEXANDER	\$ 29,662
ALLEGHANY	\$ 28,429
ANSON	\$ 23,289
ASHE	\$ 27,401
AVERY	\$ 26,167
BEAUFORT	\$ 45,903
BERTIE	\$ 23,700
BLADEN	\$ 30,073
BRUNSWICK	\$ 48,987
BUNCOMBE	\$ 90,927
BURKE	\$ 62,556
CABARRUS	\$ 56,594
CALDWELL	\$ 49,398
CAMDEN	\$ 21,439
CARTERET	\$ 33,979
CASWELL	\$ 23,289
CATAWBA	\$ 53,921
CHATHAM	\$ 37,885
CHEROKEE	\$ 32,540
CHOWAN	\$ 24,934
CLAY	\$ 25,961
CLEVELAND	\$ 63,173

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COLUMBUS	\$ 45,081
CRAVEN	\$ 44,464
CUMBERLAND	\$ 118,064
CURRITUCK	\$ 23,083
DARE	\$ 26,373
DAVIDSON	\$ 51,865
DAVIE	\$ 29,456
DUPLIN	\$ 24,317
DURHAM	\$ 75,919
EDGECOMBE	\$ 28,017
FORSYTH	\$ 69,957
FRANKLIN	\$ 33,774
GASTON	\$ 153,879
GATES	\$ 20,000
GRAHAM	\$ 24,728
GRANVILLE	\$ 26,578
GREENE	\$ 26,784
GUILFORD	\$ 128,960
HALIFAX	\$ 23,700
HARNETT	\$ 68,312
HAYWOOD	\$ 44,259
HENDERSON	\$ 45,081
HERTFORD	\$ 20,616
HOKE	\$ 31,718
HYDE	\$ 21,644
IREDELL	\$ 44,464

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JACKSON	\$ 36,858
JOHNSTON	\$ 85,500
JONES	\$ 22,672
LEE	\$ 24,728
LENOIR	\$ 29,868
LINCOLN	\$ 37,680
MACON	\$ 33,774
MADISON	\$ 24,934
MARTIN	\$ 26,784
MCDOWELL	\$ 42,203
MECKLENBURG	\$ 122,381
MITCHELL	\$ 28,429
MONTGOMERY	\$ 25,345
MOORE	\$ 34,596
NASH	\$ 31,307
NEW HANOVER	\$ 78,277
NORTHAMPTON	\$ 30,616
ONslow	\$ 47,137
ORANGE	\$ 37,885
PAMLICO	\$ 21,439
PASQUOTANK	\$ 39,317
PENDER	\$ 33,568
PERQUIMANS	\$ 22,261
PERSON	\$ 36,035
PITT	\$ 105,771
POLK	\$ 29,662

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RANDOLPH	\$ 63,173
RICHMOND	\$ 44,464
ROBESON	\$ 101,412
ROCKINGHAM	\$ 52,688
ROWAN	\$ 56,183
RUTHERFORD	\$ 51,865
SAMPSON	\$ 40,353
SCOTLAND	\$ 36,241
STANLY	\$ 28,429
STOKES	\$ 47,147
SURRY	\$ 42,614
SWAIN	\$ 30,484
TRANSYLVANIA	\$ 29,662
TYRRELL	\$ 20,616
UNION	\$ 48,576
VANCE	\$ 31,718
WAKE	\$ 111,074
WARREN	\$ 20,822
WASHINGTON	\$ 29,522
WATAUGA	\$ 32,335
WAYNE	\$ 35,007
WILKES	\$ 64,612
WILSON	\$ 27,606
YADKIN	\$ 39,157
YANCEY	\$ 26,167
Total	\$ 4,355,690

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