



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Social Services

Pat McCrory
Governor

Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.
Ambassador (Ret.)
Secretary DHHS

Wayne E. Black
Division Director

November 7, 2014

SUBJECT: Child Protective Services Caseloads Reduction

Dear County Directors of Social Services:

As you are aware from our previous Dear County Director Letter concerning Child Welfare funding allocations (September 26, 2014), the NC State Budget (SB 744) for State Fiscal Year 2014-2015 appropriated new state dollars to local county departments of social services for child protective services. The NC Division of Social Services (NC DSS) has worked closely with the leadership of the North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services (NCACDSS) to establish a methodology for allocation of the funds in accordance with the intent of the legislation. This Dear County Director letter is being issued to share plans to allocate additional child protective services funding (\$2,869,970) for the State Fiscal Year 2014-2015 as specified in legislation. Specifically the legislation states that this allocation "shall be used to provide additional funding for child protective services' workers to reduce caseloads to an average of 10 families per worker", Session Law 2014-10, SECTION 12C.1. (b). The amount allocated in State Fiscal Year 2014-15 by the NC General Assembly was annualized for three quarters of this fiscal year, the availability of funds to be provided beginning October 1, 2014; therefore, funding will be provided for a full year beginning in State Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Attached is a spreadsheet to reflect each county's State Fiscal Year 2014-2015 and State Fiscal Year 2015-2016 allocation. Coding instructions will be issued within the next few weeks.

The county's allocation was arrived at by using data from the 2013 Child Welfare Workforce Data Book that was submitted by counties. An extensive formula was created to allocate these funds; the highlights of this formula are as follows:

- A statewide ratio of the average number of open assessments at the end of the month to the average monthly number of CPS reports accepted for assessment was established as a standard,
- This ratio was applied to each county's average monthly number of reports accepted to determine the number of FTE's needed to meet the workload in the county,
- The number of FTE's budgeted in each county for CPS was subtracted to establish where the workloads exceeded the state standard,
- An annualized salary of \$52,419 was applied to the established FTE for counties needing more than .5 FTE's.

After this allocation formula was applied, 30 counties have been identified as having a need for one or more additional staff. The legislation specified these funds to be recurring.

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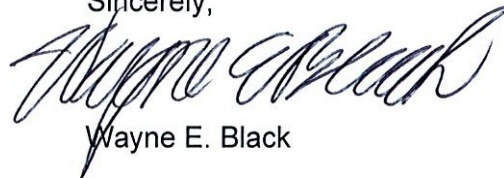


Dear County Director
November 4, 2014
Page 2 of 2

The NCDSS is respectfully requesting from each local department social services a signed statement from the DSS Director to verify that you will secure the identified additional staff to perform Child Protective Services. If your county will not hire a new position or will not be in need of the total amount allocated, the NCDSS will require an explanation of why the funds or position will not be needed. Please return the attached statement to Sandra Weathers by December 15, 2014 FAX (919)334-1031 or email Sandra.Weathers@dhhs.nc.gov .

If you have any questions please contact Jeff Olson, NC DSS Local Support Team Manager (919)527-6404 or Jeffrey.Olson@dhhs.nc.gov .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne E. Black". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Wayne E. Black

WEB/ks

Attachments

BG 09-2014