



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

Child Support Services

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor  
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

Sherry S. Bradsher, Director

**December 28, 2011**

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**ATTENTION: CHILD SUPPORT MANAGERS, SUPERVISORS AND CASE MANAGERS**

**SUBJECT: DATA RELIABILITY AUDIT RESULTS**

The Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) conducts a Data Reliability Audit annually to assess the completeness, reliability, and security of the child support data and the accuracy of the child support reporting systems used in calculating performance indicators. OCSE issued its final Data Reliability Audit (DRA) report for the North Carolina Child Support Program for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2010. The report indicated that data for the performance measure *Children in IVD Cases Open During or at the End of the Fiscal Year with Paternity Established or Acknowledged* did not meet the 95 percent data reliability standard required in 45 CFR 305.1(i).

Because North Carolina's data did not meet the 95 percent standard, the State will subject to a financial penalty in 2012 if we do not meet the 95 percent. If North Carolina fails to submit complete and reliable data for FFY11, the State is subject to a financial penalty of \$3,022,936, which is one percent of the adjusted State Family Assistance Grant for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program for FFY10. The penalty will continue to be assessed until the State is determined to have submitted complete and reliable data and achieved the required performance level. In accordance with 45 CFR 262.1 (e)(1), the State must expend additional state/county funds equal to the amount of the penalty (which will not count toward the maintenance-of-effort requirement under TANF) the year after the penalty is assessed.

The Data Reliability Audit for FFY11 will begin in late January or early February 2012. To avoid the financial penalty, data in county case records must align with the data in ACTS. Counties with failed cases from the FFY10 review have been notified of the errors and they have

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been corrected. **All** cases with the potential for failure in every county must be reviewed and corrected. If you are unable to review 100% of the cases, please review as many as possible.

Please see the attached document for the names of the queries and additional information and instructions. The Child Support field representatives will be contacting county Child Support supervisors and managers to assist with planning the review of the cases.

As you are aware, it is imperative that Child Support case data is reliable as it serves as the base for calculating performance indicators which in turn impacts potential incentive funding. While the only sure way to identify data keying errors is to review all case records and compare back to ACTS, the Division recognizes that case clean-up will be very challenging given short timeframes and limited resources. The Child Support Section encourages counties to review as many cases as possible, and to consider additional strategies such as targeting case review of new and/or under-performing staff. The Child Support field representatives are available to assist in development of additional strategies to assist with the review.

We appreciate the effort you will expend reviewing these cases. Please make this clean-up effort a priority in January. The better prepared we are for the upcoming audit helps mitigate the risk of failing the 2011 audit and the penalty that will be imposed should we fail.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Daisie Blue at (919) 855-4402 or Judy McArn at (919) 855-4431. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,



Daisie B. Blue, Chief

Attachment

CSE-24-2011

Cc: Sherry Bradsher  
Jack Rogers

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