



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

325 North Salisbury Street • Raleigh, North Carolina 27603
Courier # 56-20-25
MSC# 2408 Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2408

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Buell, Secretary

Pheon E. Beal, Director
(919) 733-3055

December 27, 2001

Dear County Director of Social Services (Specified)

Alamance	Alexander	Alleghany	Anson	Ashe
Beaufort	Bertie	Bladen	Brunswick	Buncombe
Burke	Cabarrus	Caldwell	Carteret	Caswell
Catawba	Chatham	Cherokee	Cleveland	Columbus
Craven	Cumberland	Currituck	Dare	Davidson
Davie	Duplin	Durham	Edgecombe	Forsyth
Franklin	Gaston	Granville	Greene	Guilford
Halifax	Harnett	Haywood	Henderson	Hertford
Hoke	Iredell	Jackson	Johnston	Jones
Lee	Lenoir	Lincoln	Macon	Montgomery
Madison	Martin	McDowell	Mecklenburg	Mitchell
Moore	Nash	New Hanover	Northampton	Onslow
Orange	Pamlico	Pasquotank	Pender	Perquimans
Person	Pitt	Polk	Randolph	Richmond
Robeson	Rockingham	Rowan	Rutherford	Sampson
Scotland	Stanly	Stokes	Surry	Transylvania
Union	Vance	Wake	Warren	Washington
Watagua	Wayne	Wilkes	Wilson	Yadkin
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Re: Distribution of Funds from the Federal Adoption Incentive Program

The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 included a provision to grant incentive payments to states that exceeded an established baseline for adoptions during federal fiscal years beginning in 1998. For our achievement in increasing the number of foster children who have been adopted, we have been awarded payments in the amount of \$802,237 for FFY 1999 and \$623,679 for FFY 2000 for a total of \$1,425,916. At the recommendation of the Children's Services Committee of the County Directors' Association, we are distributing these funds to the agencies whose performance in securing adoptive homes for foster children enabled the state to exceed the baseline. This includes 91 counties and the four private agencies that have performance based contracts with the Division. The amount of the federal grants allow us to distribute \$679.33 per adoption that you finalized during fiscal years 98-99 and 99-00 as verified by the Adoption Information Management System (AIMS). For planning purposes, the attached chart contains an estimate of the amount of grant funds that your agency will receive. A formal funding authorization will be sent to you with the exact amount of the grant. You will also receive a Services Information System (SIS) change notice regarding the program code to use to access the amount of money that has been designated for your county.

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This is 100% federal money and must be expended by August 31, 2002 and reported on the 1571 by October 20, 2002. This grant does not require any matching funds nor any consideration of a penetration rate such as federal IV-E funds otherwise require. The grant does, however, prohibit the use of these funds to supplant other public funds. The grant must not, therefore, be used to re-finance existing services or activities.

These funds are to be used for allowable costs under Titles IV-B or IV-E. Therefore, the funds can be used to provide or purchase any of the extensive range of services that are identified in the SIS manual as allowable for Program Codes "P" and "Z". Note that this includes the recruitment of foster and adoptive parents, which may be a particularly good use of these one-time funds. The funds may also be used to support public education and awareness activities (e.g. how to report suspected child abuse or neglect, etc.) when all similar costs in the agency are consistently direct charged. Note that the funds must be used in compliance with the DSS Fiscal Manual and with the federally-approved DHHS cost-allocation plan. This means that equipment, training, supplies, etc. may not be directly charged to these funds without prior approval.

We are pleased that North Carolina has been awarded these funds and hope that you can make good use of this opportunity to improve your child welfare system. We are very proud of the outstanding work that you have done to provide permanency through adoption for so many children.

If you have any questions about these funds, please call Esther High at 919-733-4622.

Sincerely,



Charles C. Harris, Chief
Children's Services

CCH/eth

cc: Pheon Beal
Paul Lesieur
Sherry Bradsher
Children's Services Team Leaders
Children's Services Program Representatives

CS-48-2001