

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Division of Social Services

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Courier # 56-20-25

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

Sherry S. Bradsher, Director
(919) 733-3055

January 15, 2009

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: FOSTER CARE CASEWORKER VISITS FUNDING

The Division of Social Services recently received notification that North Carolina's allocation for SFY 2008 in Title IV-B, subpart 2 funds from the Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-288) is \$160,500. **No local match is required as a condition for receipt of these funds.** P.L. 109-288 creates a set-aside to support State spending on monthly caseworker visits for FY 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. The federal allocation is significantly lower than the allocation North Carolina received for FY 2006. The following web site provides additional information about these funds (http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/policy/im/im0605.htm).

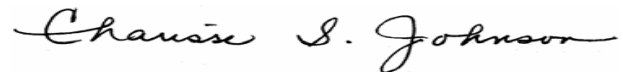
P. L. 109-288 mandates that 90 percent of children in foster care are visited by their caseworkers on a monthly basis by October 1, 2011, and that the majority of the visits occur in the residence of the child. Funds are to support monthly caseworker visits with children who are in foster care under the responsibility of the State, with a primary emphasis on activities designed to improve caseworker retention, recruitment and ability to access the benefits of technology. The following is a sample of activities that can be reimbursed for foster care caseworkers through this funding: recruitment campaigns, increasing salaries, providing bonuses, training, travel reimbursement and enhancing technology. Other expenditures are acceptable if they can be tied to retention and recruitment. Please note that fiscal policy for direct charge vs. cost allocation must be followed.

County departments of social services use the MRS database to record documentation related to caseworker visits. The documentation must reflect where the visits occur (foster home, school, worker's office, etc.). Please note that the majority of these visits should be in the foster home (in a six month period of time, four of the required visits should be in the foster home). Effective July 1, 2008 North Carolina issued policy that establishes guidelines for monthly visits with foster children.

The caseworker visits funds are distributed to counties based on an average of children in custody for each quarter of FFY ending September 30, 2008. The attached document specifies the funding available to each county department of social services. Activities related to caseworker visits with children in foster care, day sheet codes should be coded to either Service Code 109 or 119 and Program Codes N, P, R, V, X, 0 (zero) and 9. 1571 preparers will use the Monthly Caseworker Visits funds first for caseworker visits and expenditures to support caseworker visits. When used for caseworker visits use the Monthly Caseworker Visits funding source for children who are not eligible for Title IV-E funds.

Questions related to fiscal issues should be directed to your Local Business Liaison. Questions related to program issues should be directed to Bob Hensley, Team Leader, Regulatory and Licensing Services at Bob.Hensley@ncmail.net or (828) 287-6898.

Sincerely,



Charisse Johnson, Chief
Child Welfare Services

cc: Sherry S. Bradsher
Sarah Barham
Local Business Liaisons Managers
Child Welfare Services Team Leaders
Children's Services Program Representatives
Regulatory and Licensing Services Consultants

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