



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

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Albert A. Delia, Acting Secretary

Sherry S. Bradsher, Director

325 N. Salisbury Street
2408 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina • 27699-2408
Courier # 56-20-25

OCTOBER 1, 2012

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: COUNTY DIRECTORS

**SUBJECT: REACHING FOR EXCELLENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN PRACTICE (REAP)
EXPANSION APPLICATION**

The Division of Social Services would like to extend the opportunity for an additional group of counties to apply as implementation partners in the effort known as Reaching for Excellence and Accountability in Practice (REAP). The NC Division of Social Services, in partnership with eight REAP county departments of social services continue to work together as we strive to improve the outcomes for children and families in North Carolina.

The Mission of REAP: The NC Division of Social Services and county departments of social services, in collaboration with our community partners, will share accountability for reaching core achievements for children, youth & families. We will adopt a quality improvement approach to child welfare that is data-driven, results-oriented, and tailored to the specific strengths and needs of each community. This approach encompasses the use of best practices, technical assistance, and training to continuously improve outcomes for children, youth and families in our state.

REAP is an opportunity to assess and improve organizational and community structure so that we may work more efficiently and effectively with the families we serve. Attached is the REAP expansion application. **Counties should utilize this document to complete and sign.** Please review it with all appropriate internal and external partners before considering applying to join REAP.

The Division will be hosting a webinar on October 18, 2012 from 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM to provide a brief overview of REAP, discuss expectations as well as answer any questions counties may have about the application process. There is no registration required. Participants will be able to type in questions within the chat box. The webinar will be recorded and a link to the recording will be emailed on the CWlistserv upon conclusion. Please see the attached document that includes the webinar link and instructions to prepare your computer in advance.

Also attached are a living "Frequently Asked Questions" document about REAP and an additional REAP Flyer that may be of assistance.

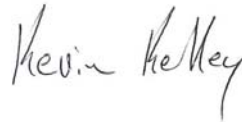
The application is due on November 1, 2012 and it can be faxed, emailed or mailed to:

Rick Zechman eric.zechman@dhhs.nc.gov
325 N. Salisbury St.
2410 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
(Fax) 919-334-1147

Submitted applications will be provided to a committee of reviewers to score. The REAP Steering Committee will make final recommendations as to whom will be selected to join as implementation partners in REAP. The Division anticipates that successful applicants will be notified by email before the end of November 2012.

If you have any questions or concerns about this information, please feel free to contact Rita Bland at 919.334.1167 | rita.bland@dhhs.nc.gov or Jeff Olson at 919.334.1137 | Jeffrey.Olson@dhhs.nc.gov

Sincerely,



Kevin Kelley, Section Chief
Child Welfare Services

Attachments:

REAP Readiness Application
REAP County Assurances
REAP Frequently Asked Questions
REAP Flyer
REAP Computer Preparation and Webinar Link

CWS-09-12

cc: Sherry S. Bradsher
Jack Rogers
Child Welfare Services Team Leaders