

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH  
SECRETARY

WAYNE E. BLACK  
DIRECTOR

March 2, 2018

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**DEAR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF ADOPTION CHILD PLACING AGENCIES**

**SUBJECT: NORTH CAROLINA POST ADOPTION LIFE STUDY (NC-PALS)**

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, in partnership with Child Trends, is pleased to announce the upcoming North Carolina Post Adoption Life Study (NC-PALS). NC-PALS is an important study about the life experiences of young people adopted from foster care in North Carolina.

The goal of the study is to learn how young people who were adopted from foster care in North Carolina are doing as young adults and to better understand their experiences with, and opinions about, the adoption process. The research can provide child welfare agencies and other organizations with valuable information that can help structure and shape future services such as improving child and parent adoption preparation and training, support to adoptive families and youth post adoptive placement, as well as post adoption supportive services.

In March 2018, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will mail an information packet to households with eligible youth. The packets contain a letter and brochure describing the study, along with information on how to contact the research team.

It is anticipated that families may reach out to familiar professionals to ask questions. Attached you will find a copy of the cover letter from the packet, brochure and a NC-PALS FAQ sheet. This will not only provide agency staff with additional information about the study but also assist in answering any questions you may receive and direct families to the correct contact. This is an exciting opportunity for young people to have their voices heard and provide North Carolina with information that will allow us to better serve and support youth and families in the future.

[WWW.NCDHHS.GOV](http://WWW.NCDHHS.GOV)

TEL 919-527-6340 • FAX 919-715-6714

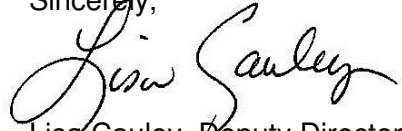
LOCATION: 820 S. BOYLAN AVE. • MCBRYDE BUILDING • RALEIGH, NC 27603

MAILING ADDRESS: 2406 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-2406

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Should you have any questions about the role of DHHS in the study, you may contact Kim Best at 919-527-6354 or [kimberly.best@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:kimberly.best@dhhs.nc.gov). For specific questions about NC-PALS, please contact Esther Gross, Child Trends project manager, at [egross@childtrends.org](mailto:egross@childtrends.org) or 240-223-9260.

Sincerely,



Lisa Cauley, Deputy Director  
Child Welfare Services

**Attachments (3):**

1. NC-PALS brochure
2. NC-PALS cover letter
3. NC-PALS FAQ

CWS-09-2018