



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

Pat McCrory
Governor

Richard O. Brajer
Secretary

Wayne E. Black
Division Director

September 15, 2015

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: COUNTY CHILD WELFARE AGENCY LINKS STAFF

SUBJECT: NATIONAL YOUTH IN TRANSITION DATABASE (NYTD)

The purpose of this letter is to remind county child welfare agencies that North Carolina has been participating in the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) federal data collection effort since October 1, 2010. For more background information please see the Dear County Director Letters issued on September 16, 2010 (<http://www2.ncdhhs.gov/dss/dcdl/famsupchildwelfare/CWS-21-10.pdf>) and October 8th, 2010 (<http://www2.ncdhhs.gov/dss/dcdl/famsupchildwelfare/cws-22-10.pdf>). North Carolina's participation in this is mandated per P.L. 106-169 which established the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) which is called "LINKS" in North Carolina.

As part of the data collection effort, county child welfare agencies are mandated to survey youths who are transitioning out of the foster care system at ages 17, 19 and 21 regarding outcomes related to financial self-sufficiency, homelessness, educational attainment, positive connections to adults, high-risk behaviors, and access to health care. The state is currently surveying 21- year olds of the first cohort of NYTD. This survey began October 1, 2014 and ends September 30, 2015. In October 2014, and as requested thereafter, the state notified individual counties via email/phone of the names of the youths who are required to take the survey as well as the required timeframes to complete the survey.

Youths whose birthdays fall between October 1, 2014 and March 31, 2015 were required to take the survey by March 31st. Unfortunately, the state did not meet the mandatory participation rate of 60% and only 43% of the youth's actually completed the survey. As a result, the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has issued a 0.5% penalty the state's Chafee (LINKS) funds (see attached letter). This will significantly impact the availability of LINKS funds allocated to counties for LINKS services.

ACF has offered an opportunity to suspend this penalty if the state meets the 60% participation rate for youths whose birthdays fall between April 1, 2015 and September 30, 2015. These youths must complete the survey by September 30, 2015. To date, the state has only received 39% of these surveys. The federally required participation rate for this survey is 60% of the youths who completed the survey at age 17. Attached is a spreadsheet that list the counties that have youths required to take the survey and the rate of participation.

Child Welfare Services

www.ncdhhs.gov • www.ncdhhs.gov/dss

Tel. 919-527-6340 • Fax 919-715-6714

Location: McBryde East Building • 820 South Boylan Ave. • Raleigh, NC 27603

Mailing Address: 2406 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-2406

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In an effort to avoid service disruption to our older youths in and out of care, we are strongly encouraging counties to make diligent efforts to engage and locate youths that still need to complete the survey for the April 1, 2015 and September 30, 2015 time period. For your convenience, a copy of the survey is attached. All surveys need to be faxed in no later than September 30, 2015 to (919) 334-1097- LINKS Fax.

North Carolina has been fully compliant with NYTD requirements including meeting the mandatory survey participation rates up until now. While we acknowledge the challenge in maintaining engagement and locating youths after they have exited care, the federal government expects child welfare agencies to connect and follow up with older youth in an effort to improve their outcomes.

If you have questions related to NYTD, please contact the NC LINKS Coordinator, Danielle McConaga, at Danielle.McConaga@dhhs.nc.gov or (919)-527-6343.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kevin Kelley, Section Chief
Child Welfare Services

Attachments (3)

CWS-10-2015