



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

Pat McCrory  
Governor

Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.  
Ambassador (Ret.)  
Secretary DHHS

Wayne E. Black  
Division Director

June 2, 2014

**Dear County Director of Social Service**

**Attention: Child Welfare Program Managers, Supervisors and Social Work Staff**

**Subject: Permanency Innovation Initiative (PII)**

The NC General Assembly created and approved funding for the *A Family for Every Child* initiative as part of the two-year State budget. This legislation includes three provisions that; 1) restores funding to the Adoption Promotion Fund, 2) establishes the Permanency Innovation Initiative (PII) Fund, which includes Child Specific Adoption Recruitment, Family Finding and training services, and 3) creates a Permanency Innovation Initiative Oversight Committee. The intent of *A Family for Every Child* is to improve permanency outcomes for children and reduce the costs associated with foster care. *A Family for Every Child* allocated \$1,000,000 to the PII Fund during the 2013/14 fiscal year and \$2,750,000 during the 2014/15 fiscal year. These services are being funded as an 18 month demonstration project, and the Oversight Committee is charged to evaluate the operation and success of the initiative and to make recommendations to DHHS and the State Legislature regarding future funding.

Since 2005, Child Specific Adoption Recruitment and Family Finding have been offered in a number of counties and communities across North Carolina, but services have been limited by funding. The funds allocated to the PII Fund support Child Specific Adoption Recruitment, Family Finding and training services provided by Children's Home Society of North Carolina (CHS) under a contract administered by NC DHHS-DSS. These services began January 1, 2014. During the 2013/14 fiscal year, the contract provides that approximately 110 children in 35 counties receive services. The areas targeted for services were based on the financial resources made available under the PII Fund and the location of CHS staff resources; as well as the number of children in foster care, age of children in foster care and number of children who are legally free for adoption. The service areas also represented counties of varying sizes across NC. The PII Fund also supports training services across the state.

During state fiscal year 2014/15 the PII fund will allow for expansion of these services both in terms of geography and the number of children served. It is anticipated that approximately 228 children in 89 counties will receive services. The areas targeted for services continue to be based on the financial resources made available under the PII Fund and the location of CHS staff resources; as well as the number of children in foster care, age of children in foster care and number of children who are legally free for adoption. The attachment lists the counties in each service area. The PII Fund will also support training services across the state.

Child Welfare Services

[www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov) • [www.ncdhhs.gov/dss](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss)

Tel. 919-527-6340 • Fax 919-715-6714

Location: McBryde East Building • 820 South Boylan Ave. • Raleigh, NC 27699-2439

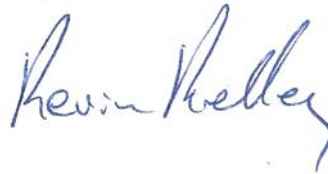
Mailing Address: 2406 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-2406

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As this is a demonstration project following permanency outcomes, it is important that referrals for these services be made as timely as possible. Eligibility criteria targets youth, ages 9 to 17, who have been in care for 2 years or longer. These youth should have as one of their permanency goals: adoption, custody, or guardianship with a relative. Referrals can be made to CHS for 2014/15 at this time and services will begin on July 1. It will be on a first come, first served basis. CHS values permanency for children and looks forward to working collaboratively to offer these services across North Carolina. For information about how to make referrals, please contact Matt Anderson at 336-369-3814 or [mvanderson@chsnc.org](mailto:mvanderson@chsnc.org). For other questions or information, please contact Teresa Strom at 919-527-6433 or [Teresa.Strom@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Teresa.Strom@dhhs.nc.gov).

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, Chief  
Child Welfare Services

Attachment: Permanency Innovations  
Initiative Service Areas 2014-2015