

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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SECRETARY

WAYNE E. BLACK
SR. DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL SERVICES
AND COUNTY OPERATIONS

August 15, 2017

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: ALL CHILD WELFARE STAFF

SUBJECT: DRIVERS LICENSE PILOT PROJECT

This letter is to inform county child welfare agencies about a two-year Drivers License Pilot Project, established by the General Assembly through Session Law 2017-41 (Rylan's Law / Family / Child Protection and Accountability Act). This Pilot Project will be administered by the North Carolina Division of Social Services, Child Welfare Section. Young people in foster care who do not have drivers licenses face barriers to their education, employment, and participation in other community-based activities. The purpose of this project is to reimburse, on a first-come, first-served basis, youth and caregivers' costs associated with drivers education, drivers license fees, insurance costs, and any other costs associated with obtaining a driver's license.

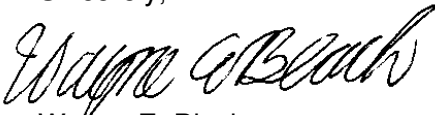
As the first step in designing this pilot project, NC DSS would like to request county child welfare agency participation in a survey to collect data related to the scope of this issue. This survey will collect the following data; (1) the number of current and former foster youth, of driving age, being served by counties, (2) how counties are funding driver's education, driver's license fees, and insurance for young people; (3) barriers to driving faced by young people currently or formerly in foster care; and (4) additional information. This survey may be accessed using the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LFGD8RN>. Counties are asked to complete the survey by **close of business on August 29, 2017**. Information gathered through this survey will be used to develop criteria for and around eligibility for allocation of funds.

Partnership in the development of this project is important to assure success. The Division of Social Services will be coordinating with the DSS Directors Association to identify volunteers from County Departments of Social Services with experience working with foster youth, and foster youth needing driver licenses, to assist in developing the criteria for the project. We are also requesting participation in this effort from other community partners, including SaySo, foster parents and child placing agencies.

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If you have questions or need clarification, please contact State LINKS Coordinator, Erin Conner, at erin.conner@dhhs.nc.gov, or 919-527-6351.

Sincerely,



Wayne E. Black

CWS-25-2017