



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

325 North Salisbury Street • MSC 2410 • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2405

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Pheon E. Beal, Director
(919) 733-3055

June 23, 2004

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES:

SUBJECT: 2004/2005 Plans for use of TANF/DV funds

It is time to develop a plan with your local domestic violence agency for use of the TANF/DV funds for 2004/2005. The allocation amount for 2004/2005 is not known at this time, however we do anticipate some amount of funding. **The plan for your county, signed by the domestic violence program director or the director's designee and the county social services director or director's designee must be received by July 16, 2004.** The plans will be reviewed by the Division and by a representative from the NC Council for Women. The local department of social services will be notified once the plan is approved. It is recommended that you review the plan with your local domestic violence agency that was developed last year and amend as needed. The controller's office will notify you of your exact allocation as soon as possible after June 30, 2004.

The co-occurrence of child abuse and domestic violence has been documented in many reports. However, as child welfare administrators charged with the protection of children, we must do more than simply recognize that there is a direct correlation between the two service entities. It is important that we recognize the dynamics of domestic violence in abuse or neglect and take aggressive steps to facilitate positive outcomes to ensure the safety of women and children in the family.

The TANF/DV funds are to provide direct services to victims/survivors of domestic violence that include but are not limited to counseling, relocation expenses, education or job training, attorney fees, shelter, housing, transportation, and various costs associated with safety for the family. You can be innovative as to what your clients need. Be sure to include in your plan that eligibility is based on either one of two criteria: a parent with child(ren) who is Work First eligible or a parent with child(ren) who meets 200% or less of the federal poverty guideline. Immigrant families who have at least one member meeting the age, kinship, citizenship, and living with rules are also eligible for services. Remember that these funds cannot be used for staff time if that time is already covered by another grant. Shelter costs can only be charged if these shelter costs are not already paid for by another grant.

Dear County Director

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There is considerable common ground between child welfare services and women's advocacy services. Both systems are interested in the safety and well being of the child and mother. Interventions by Department of Social Services and Domestic Violence Programs can be strengthened through collaborations with each other. Collaborative relationships among these programs should include developing referral procedures that allow follow-up to occur by the DSS and, at the same time, provides the Domestic Violence Program with pertinent information to facilitate positive intervention. If you have confidence as to what you have done in the past and are achieving the desired outcome for your community, you may decide not to make any changes in the plan for 2004/2005, based on the services provided (outcomes).

As requested in the letters that went out last year, the number of clients you served with this funding and the kind of assistance they received is to be reported to this office by July 30, 2004 for the 2003/2004 allocation cycle. These numbers are very important outcome information for legislators who have approved funding. A reporting form is included that needs to be completed for each county, either by DSS or the domestic violence agency. For 2004/2005, the General Assembly has directed the Department of Health and Human Services to report on the uses of these funds no later than March 1, 2005. In light of this requirement, please keep statistics on the number of clients served with these funds and the types of services.

Please submit **two copies** of your 2004/2005 plan by July 30, 2004 to:

Family Support & Child Welfare Services

Attn: Susan S. King

MSC 2410

Raleigh, NC 27699-2410

There is still an issue with some counties not spending their allocation. Work First and Child Welfare consultants will be providing technical assistance throughout the year to support counties who have historically underspent.

If you have questions regarding any instructions issued in this letter, please contact Susan S. King at 919-733-2279 or your Work First Representative or your Children's Program Representative.

Sincerely,



Jo Ann Lamm, Program Administrator
Family Support & Child Welfare Services Section

Cc: Local Business Liaisons

Pheon E. Beal, Director, Division of Social Services

Sherry Bradsher, Deputy Director, Division of Social Services

Family Support & Child Welfare Services Team Leaders

Work First Representatives

Children's Services Representatives

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