



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Social Services
2408 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2408

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

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

July 15, 2004

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Attention: Work First Directors, Program Managers, Supervisors and Staff

Subject: North Carolina Department of Labor/ TANF IDA Program

We are pleased to announce that the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services continues to work with the NC Department of Labor, IDA's/TANF& Special Projects Section to facilitate the use of TANF funds to support Individual Development Accounts (IDA's) for TANF eligible individuals. Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) are matched savings accounts that help low-income families save money to pay for education, buy a home, or start a small business. The IDA program has provided opportunities in the past for TANF eligible clients that they would have never had otherwise to enter the economic mainstream. This program will continue to provide such opportunities for families.

There are many coordinated agencies working in collaboration with community based organizations, and community development corporations to reach low income families that are economically deprived in underserved neighborhoods. Other funding sources also support IDA's across the State. Under this contract, TANF funds will be used to provide matching funds and technical assistance to eligible IDA account holders in North Carolina. Currently, there are 389 active account holders enrolled in the IDA programs across 23 local sites that partner with the NC Department of Labor and the NC Department of Commerce. Over 65% of these account holders are TANF eligible. A list of these provider agencies is attached. We encourage County Departments of Social Services to assist TANF eligible individuals who are assessed to be candidates for the IDA program to take advantage of these opportunities for building wealth, self-sufficiency, and the capacity to enter the economic mainstream. We anticipate that up to 100 individuals will be served through this contract over the next year.

If you have any questions please contact Tania Segers or Sara Mims at (919) 733-4622.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Ann Lamm".

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

JAL/tms

Attachment

CC: Pheon Beal
Sherry Bradsher
Sarah Barham
Wilbert Morris

Tina Morris-Anderson, DOL
FSCWS Team Leaders
Work First Program Representatives
Local Business Liaisons

FSCWS-30-04