



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

325 North Salisbury Street • MSC 2409 • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2409
Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

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

August 18, 2005

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Attention: **Adoption & Foster Care Supervisors
Adoption & Foster Care Social Workers**

Subject: **Study to Identify Adoption Incentives for Children who are Difficult to Place**

The General Assembly has expressed a great deal of interest in obtaining permanent homes for children in the past several years. The General Assembly included in the budget the following mandate. Senate Bill 622, Section 10.49 states, "the Department of Health and Human Services shall conduct a study to identify potential incentives for adoption of children who are difficult to place and the associated costs of each incentive. The study shall identify incentives currently in place in individual counties and the associated costs. The study shall identify funding sources available to support each incentive. The Department shall report the results of its study to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division no later than October 1, 2005."

In order to meet this upcoming deadline, we need to have the following information from you by August 31, 2005 to facilitate obtaining the information from individual counties as requested in this provision.

1. Are there any additional incentives provided in your county to promote adoption of difficult to place children? If so, what is the associated cost?
2. Are you participating in the Special Children Adoption Incentive Fund? If not, why?
3. What incentives would be necessary to increase the adoption of difficult to place children in your county?

Please respond immediately upon receipt of this letter. Please fax to 919-733-3052 or call Esther High at 919-733-9464, if you have questions. We appreciate your willingness to inform the General Assembly regarding barriers that prevent children from achieving a permanent home.

Sincerely,

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

Jo Ann Lamm, Section Chief
Family Support and Child Welfare Section

JAL/eh

FSCWS-34-05

cc: Pheon Beal
Sherry Bradsher
Children's and Work First Program Representatives
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Team Leaders