



## North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Pat McCrory  
Governor

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

October 4, 2013

Dear County Directors of Social Services:

As the NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) continues to assess the impact of the federal shutdown on our residents and service partners, it is imperative that we do not lose sight of our critical mission: "to protect the health and safety of children and vulnerable adults."

During this period, DHHS encourages county social service leaders to engage in conversations with county leadership to explore all viable options which allow the continuation of the critical services that protect the life and safety of children and disabled adults.

DHHS recognizes that the majority of the funding for Child Protective Services, Foster Care, Adult Protective Services and Guardianship comes from the counties with the balance coming primarily from federal sources. With the federal shut down, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Social Services Block Grant Funding are no longer available to states. DHHS is evaluating the extent to which Federal Fiscal Year 2013 grants balances are available and allowable to support activities after September 30, 2013. There is no assurance of reimbursement from federal funds, and there should be no expectation of receiving state funds in lieu of federal funds.

Until there is resolution at the national level, it will be incumbent upon all of us to work together to continue providing the critical services that protect the life and safety of children and disabled adults.

The following guidance may prove helpful to you as you plan for what will hopefully be a short term problem. With that being said, we must also realize TANF, CCDF and SSBG were up for reauthorization so that uncertainty exists as well. As you assess the needs of your agency and the people you serve, please consider the following optional strategies:

1. Charge allowable activities to Maintenance of Effort (MOE) dollars as an alternative to Work First County Block Grant Funds during this interim period.
2. Refocus Work First services to core requirements and scale back or stop work on 200 percent Federal Poverty Level services.
3. Engage community partners, such as Community Action Agencies, for the provision of short term services that meet 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level guidelines.

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

Telephone 919-855-4800 • Fax 919-715-4645

Location: 101 Blair Drive • Adams Building • Raleigh, NC 27603

Mailing Address: 2001 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-2001

An Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer

October 4, 2013  
Page 2

It is critically important that if you should find that you are unable to provide the critical services necessary to protect the life and safety of children and disabled adults, you should contact the respective division director at once.

Thank you for what you do everyday for the citizens of North Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherry Bradsher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sherry Bradsher  
Deputy Secretary for Human Services