



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

Pat McCrory
Governor

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

Wayne E. Black
Division Director

October 10, 2013

Dear County Directors of Social Services:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on the impact of the Federal shutdown on several key programs within the NC Division of Social Services:

- Work First Family Assistance (Cash Assistance) and Work First Employment Services,
- Social Services Block Grant (SSBG),
- SNAP Employment & Training (E&T)
- Refugee Cash & Medical Assistance
- Permanency Planning (IV- B I)
- Family Reunification (IV-B II)

Work First Family Assistance (Cash Assistance) payments have been made for October 2013.

Effective immediately all new applications for Work First Family Assistance and Refugee Cash and Medical Assistance should be taken but none of these new applications may be processed at this time.

Case Managers should inform persons applying for Work First Family Assistance and Refugee Cash and Medical Assistance that their application will be held and not processed until federal funds become available. Further instructions will be forthcoming regarding processing these applications. The State will implement a process to provide Medicaid benefits while Work First Cash Assistance is suspended. Counties will be "held harmless" for exceeding processing time frames for these programs.

We will be unable to make any Work First Family Assistance payments in November 2013 unless a continuing resolution or compromise agreement on federal funding has been reached by the federal government. In the event a federal resolution has not been reached by October 15, 2013, the NC Division of Social Services will coordinate a communication plan with County Departments of Social Services concerning the notification to Work First recipients of the status of their November 2013 Work First checks. *We authorize employment services to be suspended immediately. Work First Cash Assistance recipients are exempted from work requirements included in their Mutual Responsibility Agreement (MRA) until further notice.*

The following TANF services provided to eligible recipients in September 2013 will be reimbursed/paid in October 2013:

- Child Protective Services – (Child Welfare Workers for County DSS)
XS411 Heading: TANF &FC/ADOPT; Program Code: 0
- TANF transfer to Social Services Block Grant (Child Protective Services)
XS411 Heading: CPS Expansion; Program Code: 23
- TANF transfer to Social Services Block Grant (Children's Services)
XS411 Heading: TANF to SSBG; Program Code: V

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The following TANF services provided to eligible recipients in September 2013 will not be reimbursed/paid in October 2013

- Work First County Block Grants
XS411 Heading: WF Federal; Program Code: R
- Work First Electing Counties
XS411 Heading: WF Federal; Program Code R

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) is the area of federal funding which will significantly impact reimbursement to County Departments of Social Services.

The following SSBG funded services provided to eligible recipients in September 2013 will be reimbursed / paid in October 2013:

- Adult Protective Services
XS411 Heading: APS-SSBG; Program Code J (only)
- State Adult Day Care Fund Services (State only)
XS411 Heading: Spec State A: DSS 1571 Part IV only Fund ID D & F

The following SSBG funded services provided to eligible recipients in September 2013 will not be reimbursed / paid in October 2013

- State Adult Day Care Fund Services (SSBG portion)
XS411 Heading: Spec Fed ADC Fund ID A & M
- State In-Home Services Fund
XS411 Heading: State IN HOM
- Special Children's Adoption Incentive Fund
- Guardianship (DSS)
- All other SSBG-coded Services

The following Child Welfare funded services provided to eligible recipients in September 2013 will not be reimbursed / paid in October 2013:

- Permanency Planning (IV- B I)
XS411 Heading: PERM PLAN; (ADM & SVC) Program Code: P
- Family Reunification (IV-B II)
XS411 Heading: Fam Reunification; Program Code: 24

There is also a lapse in appropriations for the FNS Employment & Training (E&T) Program. As a result, the Department of Health & Human Services issued a "Stop Work" directive for the FNS E&T contract with the Division of Workforce Solutions effective Monday, October 7, 2013. Please discontinue paying reimbursements for E&T vouchers effective immediately.

In closing, the Division is committed to working closely with County Departments of Social Services to mitigate the impact on services during these challenging times. As more information becomes available, we will continue to provide regular updates. Should you have a specific question, please contact me via email at Wayne.Black@dhhs.nc.gov and identify the subject line as TANF/SSBG.

Thank you for your patience and continued support.

Sincerely,



Wayne E. Black

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DIR-06-2013