



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

2420 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2420

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

Sherry S. Bradsher, Director
(919) 733-3055

February 09, 2010

Dear County Director of Social Services:

**ATTENTION: Directors, Work First Program Managers, Supervisors, and
Work First Case Managers**

Subject: Congratulations to Work First

As you know, counties statewide have implemented a new payment procedure in the Work First Program. The new system, called Work First Benefits (WFB), requires work-eligible parents to comply with the provisions of their Mutual Responsibility Agreement (MRA) core requirements and Plan of Action for a month prior to receiving the benefit check for that month.

On behalf of the Division of Social Services, I am writing to congratulate the Work First managers, supervisors, case managers and employment staff for their efforts in implementing the WFB policy change. Under the Work First Benefits (WFB) payment methodology, the overall State participation rate for All Families has exceeded the 50 percent goal for **three consecutive months**. This is a benchmark that we as a state had not achieved in Work First until now.

Participation rate performance is the measure that the Federal Government uses to evaluate TANF programs in the states. If the State does not perform well on this measure, the State is at risk for financial penalties in our TANF block grant. As you know, the State and counties use TANF funds to support many activities in addition to Work First.

Thanks for your dedication and for the hard work of county Work First staff. The State is on a much firmer footing in relation to the Federal Work First Participation Rate requirement for All Families. The Division of Social Services recognizes and values this accomplishment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dean Simpson".

Dean Simpson, Section Chief
Economic and Family Services Section

DS/cb
EFS-WF-07-2010

cc: Sherry Bradsher
Jack Rogers
Sarah Barham
Hank Bowers
Charisse Johnson
Performance Management and Information Support
Work First Team Members
Local Business Liaisons