



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

Economic Independence Section • 325 North Salisbury Street
2420 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2420
Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

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

March 21, 2003

Re: Potential ABAWD Funding

Dear County Directors of Social Services:

Attention: Food Stamp Supervisors

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, "the Farm Bill," which reauthorized the Food Stamp Program also authorized \$20 million annually to be allocated among states that make a commitment to offer and provide a qualifying education, training, or Workfare opportunity that meets the participation requirements for "at risk," able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). An at-risk ABAWD is defined as an 18-50 year old who is in the last month of their three-month certification who resides in an area subject to the Food Stamp Program E&T requirements and who is not included in the 15% ABAWD exemption allowance.

We are canvassing counties subject to E&T requirements to assess interest in participating in this initiative. As a result of the economic downturn in our state, employment is hard to find, especially by those who are considered at-risk. High unemployment, lay-offs, and job relocations continue to be major economic issues for all citizens.

If NC secures a portion of the \$20 million, all non-waiver E&T Counties must participate in this initiative. Also, please know this is 100% funding with no county match required. The funding can be used for contracting with other organizations to provide services, administration, educational training programs, etc. For example, one state is proposing to work with ABAWDs recently released from prison and alcohol and drug rehabilitation centers. Currently, Wilson County contracts with community agencies to provide ABAWDs with work experience to help maintain their food stamp eligibility. If you have specific ideas about a particular ABAWD project, please forward that proposal to David Prince at the above address, along with the estimated associated costs.

The funds must be used exclusively to serve at-risk ABAWDs and cannot be carried over to the next year.

If you think your county is interested in providing additional services to ABAWDs, please fax the attached statement to David Prince, E&T Coordinator, at 919-733-0645. You can reach him by phone at 919-733-4570. The deadline for receipt of the form and/or your proposal is April 15, 2003. The E&T State Plan must be submitted to USDA by August 15, 2003.

Sincerely,



Wilbert R. Morris, Chief
Economic Independence Section

DP/bh
Attachment
EI-10-2003

This letter was mailed to the following counties:

Alamance	Cherokee	Guilford	McDowell	Rowan
Alexander	Chowan	Harnett	Mecklenburg	Sampson
Alleghany	Clay	Haywood	Montgomery	Stanly
Anson	Craven	Henderson	Moore	Stokes
Avery	Cumberland	Hertford	Nash	Transylvania
Beaufort	Dare	Hoke	New Hanover	Union
Bladen	Davidson	Iredell	Onslow	Wake
Brunswick	Davie	Jackson	Orange	Washington
Buncombe	Duplin	Johnston	Pasquotank	Watauga
Burke	Durham	Lee	Pender	Wayne
Cabarrus	Forsyth	Lincoln	Pitt	Wilkes
Caldwell	Franklin	Macon	Randolph	Wilson
Carteret	Gaston	Madison	Richmond	Yadkin
Catawba	Granville	Martin	Rockingham	Yancey