**NC DHHS Notice of Funding Availability**

**DHHS Division/Office issuing this notice:**

Division of Social Services/Child Welfare Services

**Date of this notice:** April 13, 2020

**Working Title of the funding program:** Caring For Our Own Expansion Request for Application

**Purpose- description of function of the program and reason why it was created:**

The purpose of the Request for Application (RFA) is to award grant funds through contracts with outside sources to train the Caring For Our Own training curriculum and increase the number of licensed kinship caregivers. Best practice standards have identified relatives or kinship care providers as the preferred resource for children who must be removed from their birth parents and placed in foster care. Placing children and youth with relatives or fictive kin maintains the children's connections to their families while minimizing the trauma associated with the removal. The Caring For Our Own curriculum is designed to provide kinship caregivers with assistance and ideas to help them work in partnership with the helping network, the children and the birth parents of the children. This practice ensures the safety and well-being of the children. The Caring For Our Own curriculum provides a tailored and relevant path for kinship caregivers to complete foster parent training and become licensed; receiving financial assistance and relational support in caring for their kin, and ultimately permanency with safe and timely exits from foster care.

The Division of Social Services will award a maximum of **$120,000** in award funds for July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. The RFA is needed as an essential competitive bid process for ensuring that the most comprehensive services are selected. Without it, the Division is without a competitive process by which to select qualified service contractors.

**Description- Brief statement of nature and scope of the program:**

This RFA is to expand the Caring For Our Own training program, a program specific for kinship caregivers to become licensed, have their needs for emotional support, physical, developmental, and safety met, and support permanency for children and youth in their care. Additionally, applicants will be requested to have a plan for assisting in the completion of the Mutual Home Assessment for all families who participate in the training. Applicants will also be requested to have a plan to license identified families after completion of the training.

Applicants implementing this program will offer two paths for families who participate:

Path 1: Contracting agency will train the family in Caring For Our Own curriculum and complete a Mutual Home Assessment (MHA). The licensure process will be completed by the county child welfare agency.

Path 2: Contracting agency will train the family in Caring For Our Own curriculum, complete a MHA, and license the family.

The applicants will be in communication with the county DSS and the family to decide if the family will complete the licensure process and to address any barriers to the family completing full licensure.

**Eligibility:**

Any tribal government, community–based, public or private nonprofit, tax-exempt organization (including faith-based), school system or local government agency that is duly incorporated and registered under North Carolina Statutes is eligible to apply. It is important that the proposed project does not overlap with existing programs in the county. Factors to take into account when considering program overlap are populations served, duplication of program sites, etc.

**How to Apply:** Visit http://www2.ncdhhs.gov/dss/[pubnotice](http://www2.ncdhhs.gov/dss/pubnotice/)/ to download the application.

**Deadline for Submission:** April 24, 2020 at 5:00PM

**How to Obtain Further Information:**

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