



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEVPUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

CARLA WEST • Division Director, Human Services

January 20, 2026

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES
ATTENTION: Child Support Managers and Supervisors

SUBJECT: Federal Poverty Guidelines

REQUIRED ACTION: ☒ Information Only	☐ Action Needed
☐ Time Sensitive Action Needed	☐ Immediate Action Needed

The federal poverty guidelines are issued each year in the Federal Register by the Department of Health and Human Services. Updates to these guidelines have been published and are effective January 13, 2026.

The \$25.00 application fee for child support services can be reduced to \$10.00 if the applicant's individual gross income does not exceed the federal poverty guidelines. Chapter B, Topic 5, Section C in the Child Support Services Manual has been updated to reflect these changes to assist in determining the appropriate fee.

If you have any questions, please contact the Policy and Training Unit at csetraining@dhhs.nc.gov or your Continuous Quality Improvement Specialist.

Sincerely,

Verna Donnelly
North Carolina State Child Support Deputy Director

cc: Continuous Quality Improvement Specialists

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