



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: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed
<input type="checkbox"/> Time Sensitive Action Needed	<input type="checkbox"/> 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](mailto: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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