



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being

March 1, 2024

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS,  
MANAGERS, SUPERVISORS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS  
LICENSED CHILD PLACING AGENCIES**

**SUBJECT: HB 815: THE LOVING HOMES ACT**

**REQUIRED ACTION:**  Information Only  Time Sensitive  Immediate

North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) is committed to ensuring that public and private agencies remain informed of the progress made regarding the implementation of HB 815: The Loving Homes Act. The Loving Homes Act will provide the opportunity for families with five children to become licensed foster parents. This means that public and private agencies can submit foster home licensing packets for families who already have five children in their home.

Prior to its implementation, the Children's Bureau was required to approve the State Title IV-E Plan that included the requirements of HB 815. To remain in compliance with federal regulations, states must set a limit to the number of children that can live in a foster home. Administrative Code 10A NCAC 70E .1001 establishes that no more than five children can reside in any family foster home. The Loving Homes Act allows families with five children to accept a sixth child. The process for this to occur is through a waiver.

For families with five children, the license will indicate that the capacity is zero (0) and a waiver request **must** be received for a placement to occur.

As previously allowed, families can exceed capacity through a waiver to take a sibling group or child who is already known to the family. As a reminder, waivers are child-specific and if the child or sibling group is removed from the home, the waiver is no longer valid, and agencies are required to notify Regulatory and Licensing of the change.

As we move forward with the implementation of the Loving Homes Act, NCDSS will provide additional information and guidance, through a webinar schedule for March 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Please register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/346485138759255389> to attend this webinar.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Jenny Millsaps, Foster Home Licensing Manager, at [jenny.millsaps@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:jenny.millsaps@dhhs.nc.gov).

**NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES • CHILD WELFARE SERVICES  
REGULATORY and LICENSING SERVICES**

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Sincerely,

*Kimaree Sanders*

Kimaree Sanders, MSW, MPA  
Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing  
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare  
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

cc: Lisa T. Cauley, Senior Director of Human Services  
Katherine Swanson, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Operations  
Tammy Shook, Interim Deputy Director for Child Welfare  
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention  
Carla McNeill, Section Chief for Permanency  
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations

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