



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEV DUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

March 27, 2026

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

SUBJECT: CHILD WELFARE TRAUMA-INFORMED ASSESSMENT REGIONAL READINESS SURVEY

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive Action Required

As North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services (NCDHHS DSS) prepares to implement a statewide child welfare trauma-informed assessment, it is essential to determine which of the seven NC DSS regions are most prepared to begin implementation. A systematic and evidence-based approach to assessing readiness will ensure that early implementation efforts are successful, sustainable, and serve as models for subsequent rollouts.

Readiness surveys are essential because they bridge the gap between organizational intent and practical execution. In child welfare, implementing trauma-informed assessments isn't just about a new process; it requires a shift in culture and workflow. Readiness surveys pinpoint resource gaps, gauge staff buy-in and identify potential "trauma-informed" champions within the agency. By uncovering systemic barriers before the rollout begins, NC DSS can tailor the support strategies, ensuring the new initiative builds a robust infrastructure for the workforce.

Your feedback is essential to ensuring our implementation support and launch sequence aligns with the unique needs and capacity of each region. We encourage program administrators to complete the survey by **April 2, 2026**, to help us facilitate a thoughtful and equitable rollout. The survey should take approximately ten minutes to complete.

To complete the survey, click here: <https://forms.office.com/r/tS0m6CSMUC>

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to enhancing trauma-informed care for North Carolina's children and families. For further information, please contact Larissa Berger, NCDHHS DSS Children's Health and Development Coordinator, at Larissa.Spell-Berger@dhhs.nc.gov.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

LOCATION: 1915 Health Services Way, Raleigh NC 27607

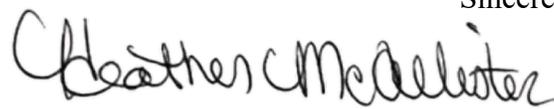
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Raleigh, NC 27699-2410

www.ncdhhs.gov • Main Tel. 919-527-6340

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Sincerely,



Heather McAllister, MSW, LCSW, LCAS, CBIS
Section Chief for Child and Family Services
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Lisa Tucker Cauley, Division Director, Human Services, Child, Family, and Adult Regional Support
Donna Fayko, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Services
Adrian W. Daye, Section Chief for Permanency
William "Ben" Rose, Lead Regional Director
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Child and Family Services
Peter West, Lead PATH-NC Implementation Coach

CWS-23-2026

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