



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEV DUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

May 15, 2025

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: ADOPTION ASSISTANCE SUBSIDIES

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND: PROVIDE INFORMATION ON DELAYS ON MAILING OF SUBSIDIES

REQUIRED ACTION: ☒ Information Only ☐ Time Sensitive ☐ Immediate

North Carolina Department of Social Services, Division of Social Services (NCDHHS DSS) is committed to timely and transparent communication with counties to support the effective implementation of policies and procedures. Clear and consistent communication builds trust with counties, foster and kinship families, and ensures proper support for adoptive families.

To that end, NCDHHS DSS acknowledges the recent delays in the distribution of Adoption Assistance subsidies have created difficulties for adoptive families who rely on these funds.

The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 mandated all states to implement an adoption subsidy program, removing the financial disincentive to states by providing federal dollars to be used as a portion of the cost. Although, States do have primary responsibility for administering child welfare funds, the federal government provides substantial funding to support the Adoption Assistance Program. Unfortunately, delays in federal disbursements have impacted the timely processing of these subsidies. In these uncertain times, NC DHHS remains committed to notifying counties and adoptive families of any expected related to federal funding issues. To help monitor this, a process has been established to confirm whether adoption assistance checks have been mailed by the 1st of each month. If checks are not mailed by 5th, notification will be shared via the following channels:

[Post Permanency Support Services Website](#)

[Foster Family Alliance Website](#)

County Director Listserv

Child Welfare Listserv

NC DHHS Social Media

Blueprint

NCDHHS DSS encourages social workers, supervisors and program managers, to share this information with adoptive families. If a family does not receive their subsidy by the 10th of the month (excluding weekends and holidays), they are advised to begin the process to request a replacement check to ensure benefits are received.

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LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603

MAILING ADDRESS: 2401 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2401

www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6404 • FAX: 919-733-3052

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As of March 31, 2025, North Carolina has 13,924 recipients of Adoption Assistance funding. The checks are currently sent via USPS and not through direct deposit. The existing payment system used to issue adoption subsidies is not equipped to support direct deposit. However, NC DHHS is transitioning to PATH NC, a technological platform designed for North Carolina child welfare staff. The system will include a financial component that enables direct deposit for adoption subsidies, helping to eliminate delays or lost payments through mail delivery. The transition is expected to take approximately six to nine months to complete.

For questions, please contact the NCDHHS DSS Adoptions Managers/Interim Private Agency Licensing Manager, Mary Mackins at mary.mackins@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Adrian W. Daye, MSW

Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
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
William "Ben" Rose, Lead Regional Director
Donna Fayko, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Operations
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety
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