

UPDATES FOR COUNTIES NOT IN PATH NC (Ongoing)

A. Permanency Policy Manual: Updated Sections

1. Placement Options Updates
2. Guardianship Assistance Programs (KinGAP & GAP)
 - a. KinGAP & GAP Eligibility and Determination Checklist ([DSS-1813](#))
 - b. KinGAP & GAP Agreement ([DSS-1810](#))
 - c. [Appendix 3.7 KinGAP & GAP Payments](#)
NOTE: Continue completing and keying the DSS-5095 for guardianship in the CPPS system until the State advises differently. Complete the updated DSS-1810 and the updated DSS-1813 in the hardcopy until State advises differently.
3. Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)
4. NC LINKS and FC 18-21
 - a. [Transitional Living Plan for 14-17 Year Olds \(DSS-5096a\)](#)
 - b. [Transitional Living Plan for 14-17 Year Olds Instructions \(DSS-5096ains\)](#)
 - c. [Emancipation Plan for 17–21 Year Olds Part B \(DSS-5096b\)](#)
 - d. [Emancipation Plan for 17–21 Year Olds Part B Instructions \(DSS-5096bins\)](#)
 - e. [Transitional Living Plan Part C – SHORTENED \(DSS-5096c\)](#)
 - f. [Transitional Living Plan for Young Adults in Foster Care 18-21 \(DSS-5096d\)](#)
 - g. Request for Reimbursement of Links Special Funds (DSS-5217)
NOTE: As counties go live in PATH NC, caseworkers must complete the LINKS Reimbursement Form (DSS-5217) in PATH NC to request reimbursement of LINKS Special Funds.
 - h. [Youth and Young Adult Driving Readiness Assessment \(DSS-5090a\)](#)
 - i. [Youth and Young Adult Vehicle Ownership Readiness Assessment \(DSS-5090b\)](#)
 - j. [Authentic Youth Engagement Resource Guide \(April 2026\)](#)
 - k. [Consumer Credit Reports Resource Guide \(April 2026\)](#)
 - l. [LINKS as an Outcome-Based Service Resource Guide \(April 2026\)](#)
 - m. [LINKS Vehicle Resource Guide \(April 2026\)](#)

UPDATES FOR COUNTIES IN PATH NC

A. In-Home Manual PATH NC Updates

1. PATH NC language/instructions throughout
2. Assessing Safety and Risk of Maltreatment
3. In-Home Family Case Plan (IHFCP)
 - a. The IHFCP should be completed in PATH NC. For instructions, please see the [DSS-5239ins: IHFCP Instructions \(PATH NC\)](#).
4. Serious and/or Imminent Risk Criteria
5. Review of Services
6. Structured Decision-Making (SDM) Tools*

B. Permanency Planning Manual (PATH NC) Updates

1. PATH NC language/instructions throughout

2. Forms

- a. [NC SDM Family Strengths and Needs Assessment \(FSNA\)*](#)
- b. Permanency Planning Family Case Plan (PPFCP)
 - i. The PPFCP should be completed in PATH NC. For instructions, please see the [DSS-5240ins: PPFCP Instructions \(PATH NC\)](#).
- c. [NC SDM Reunification Assessment*](#)

NOTE: *The Safety Plan (Permanency Planning) that may be completed as part of the Reunification Assessment is available in PATH NC as a downloadable document in the Permanency Planning case. This form does not include auto-population features, so users must manually enter all required information. Caseworkers may complete the version in PATH NC (e-signature would be available) OR download/print from PATH NC to complete a hard copy; the completed and signed Safety Plan (Permanency Planning) must be uploaded to the Permanency Planning casefile in PATH NC.*

- d. Permanency Planning Review (PPR)
 - i. The PPR should be completed in PATH NC. For instructions, please see the [DSS-5241ins: PPR Instructions \(PATH NC\)](#).
 - e. Model Court Report
3. Monthly Contact for Group Homes
4. Placement Options Updates
5. School ID Requirement
6. Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)
7. Kinship Care Assessments
- a. Initial Kinship Provider Assessment (DSS-6194)
 - b. Comprehensive Provider Assessment ([DSS-5204](#))
8. Guardianship Assistance Programs (KinGAP & GAP)
- a. [KinGAP & GAP Eligibility and Determination Checklist](#) (DSS-1813)
 - b. [KinGAP & GAP Agreement](#) (DSS-1810)

NOTE: *These updated forms will not be live in PATH NC for Group One Ongoing go live. In the meantime, caseworkers should complete these forms using the versions on DSS web and upload the completed copies to the casefile in PATH NC. Completion of the DSS-1813 in PATH NC is required for payment (when this feature goes live in the future). Continue completing and keying the DSS-5095 for guardianship in the CPPS system until the State advises differently.*

9. NC LINKS and FC 18-21

- n. [Transitional Living Plan for 14-17 Year Olds \(DSS-5096a\)](#)
- o. [Transitional Living Plan for 14-17 Year Olds Instructions \(DSS-5096ains\)](#)
- p. [Emancipation Plan for 17–21 Year Olds Part B \(DSS-5096b\)](#)
- q. [Emancipation Plan for 17–21 Year Olds Part B Instructions \(DSS-5096bins\)](#)
- r. [Transitional Living Plan Part C – SHORTENED \(DSS-5096c\)](#)
- s. [Transitional Living Plan for Young Adults in Foster Care 18-21 \(DSS-5096d\)](#)
- t. Request for Reimbursement of Links Special Funds (DSS-5217)

NOTE: As counties go live in PATH NC, caseworkers must complete the LINKS Reimbursement Form (DSS-5217) in PATH NC to request reimbursement of LINKS Special Funds.

- u. [Youth and Young Adult Driving Readiness Assessment \(DSS-5090a\)](#)
- v. [Youth and Young Adult Vehicle Ownership Readiness Assessment \(DSS-5090b\)](#)
- w. [Authentic Youth Engagement Resource Guide \(April 2026\)](#)
- x. [Consumer Credit Reports Resource Guide \(April 2026\)](#)
- y. [LINKS as an Outcome-Based Service Resource Guide \(April 2026\)](#)
- z. [LINKS Vehicle Resource Guide \(April 2026\)](#)

* Please reference the Ongoing SDM Tool Manuals on DSS Web for comprehensive information.

C. Ongoing Case Plans and Permanency Planning Review Updates

The following forms are built in PATH NC. While the manuals contain abbreviated information, caseworkers should reference the updated instructions which can be found on DSS Web.

1. In-Home Family Case Plan (IHFCP)
 - [In-Home Family Case Plan Instructions \(DSS-5239ins PATH NC\)](#)
2. Permanency Planning Family Case Plan (PPFCP)
 - [Permanency Planning Family Case Plan Instructions \(DSS-5240ins PATH NC\)](#)
3. Permanency Planning Review (PPR)
 - [Permanency Planning Review Instructions \(DSS-5241ins PATH NC\)](#)

D. Updated Financial Appendices

1. [Appendix 2. PATH NC Child Placement and Payment Information \(CPPI\) Manual](#)
2. [Appendix 3.5 Child Welfare Funding – Foster Care](#)
3. [Appendix 3.7 KinGAP & GAP Payments](#)