



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEV DUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

July 16, 2026

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, CHILD WELFARE SUPERVISORS AND FISCAL STAFF

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PLACEMENT FUND

REQUIRED ACTION: ☐ Information Only ☐ Time Sensitive ☒ Immediate

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services (NCDHHS DSS) acknowledges the ongoing challenges in securing treatment placements for children in DSS custody with complex behavioral health needs. To help address this issue, NCDHHS DSS allocated a portion of the behavioral health investment from the 2023 Appropriations Act to the DSS Emergency Placement Fund. A total of \$5,291,667 was made available to counties for SFYs 23-24, 24-25, and 25-26 for this fund.

This letter is to inform counties that all Emergency Placement Funds have been exhausted, and no additional funds will be available for SFY 26-27.

NCDHHS DSS thanks the counties for utilizing these funds to prevent children from being placed in DSS offices.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding Emergency Placement Funds, please send inquiries to emergency_placement_fund@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Adrian W. Daye, MSW
Section Chief, Permanency
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Beth Riley, MBA
Child Welfare Financial Officer
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

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LOCATION: 1915 Health Services Way, Raleigh, NC 27607

MAILING ADDRESS: 2410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2410

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

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Cc: Lisa T. Cauley, Division Director, Human Services, Child, Family, and Adult Regional Support
Donna Fayko, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Operations
William "Ben" Rose, Lead Regional Director
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief, Regulatory and Licensing
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Well-Being
Tammy Shook, Interim Assistant Deputy Director, Child Welfare Services
Meredith Houchins, Interim Section Chief, Operations

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