



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEVPUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

July 24, 2025

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS,
SUPERVISORS**

SUBJECT: SHEP EVALUATION ON THE EMERGENCY PLACEMENT FUND

REQUIRED ACTION: ☐ Information Only ☒ Time Sensitive ☒ Action Required

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services (NCDHHS DSS) has contracted with the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill to conduct an evaluation on the Emergency Placement Fund. The purpose of the evaluation is to understand the extent to which investments to improve the children's behavioral health system are associated with priority outcomes, including fewer children sleeping in DSS offices and fewer children boarding in emergency departments (EDs).

Given your role as a DSS director, program administrator, or program manager, we are particularly interested in understanding your experiences utilizing the Emergency Placement Fund and the various factors that shape how those funds are used. We are working with the evaluators who will compile this information from you and other DSS directors, program administrators, and program managers across the state.

There are two ways you may choose to participate (choose one option):

1. Access and respond to interview questions via this link: [DSS Interview - EPF](#) (Note: Only the evaluators have access to responses; you are free to respond at your convenience)
2. Schedule a 1-hr virtual interview via phone or Zoom with the evaluator, Monica Landers (monical@unc.edu) here: [DSS Interviews for Emergency Placement Fund](#)

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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: 919-855-6335 • FAX: 919-334-1018

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Your participation is valued, important, and voluntary. Your perspective is critical to understanding what worked and where continued investments are needed. Your responses will remain confidential and will be used to inform improvements in the continuum of children's behavioral system services and supports.

Thanks in advance for your participation!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing, at Kimaree.Sanders@dhhs.nc.gov. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and partnership in this vital work.

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, Division Director, Human Services, Child, Family, and Adult Regional Support
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Donna Fayko, Deputy Director for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Child and Family Services

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