



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEV DUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

September 4, 2025

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PLACEMENT FUND

REQUIRED ACTION: ☐ Information Only ☐ Time Sensitive ☒ **Immediate**

The Division of Social Services (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.

At the end of SFY 2024–2025, \$1,237,010 in unused Emergency Placement Funds remained and will be reallocated for SFY 2025–2026. To ensure sufficient funding for all counties, each county will receive a base amount of \$10,000 and the remainder of the funds will be allocated based on each county's percentage of the foster care census. The allocated amounts are listed on the attached spreadsheet. If county expenditures exceed the county's allocation, any excess payments will be county funded.

Emergency Placement Funds are intended to temporarily assist county departments of social services in addressing identified placement needs for children in the custody of the agencies who are awaiting a Medicaid leveled treatment placement. While children await the location of the placement, these funds can be used to prevent them from staying in a DSS office.

Emergency Placement Funds are to be used to temporarily provide and arrange for essential needs of the individual to establish or maintain a placement. The youth must be opened for 109 Foster Care Case Management Services on a DSS-5027 or in the Child Welfare Information System in order for client specific costs to be claimed for purposes of use #2 or #3 below.

NC DSS has identified the following promising practices which can be supported with these funds:

1. Maintain a crisis placement through a contract that pays a retainer to an identified placement provider who will accept a temporary emergency placement until the appropriate behavioral health treatment placement is located.
2. Pay a short-term temporary enhanced rate to an identified placement provider who is currently or will provide care and supervision to youth who have behaviors that require an exceptional level of supervision. For children

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who are awaiting a Medicaid leveled treatment placement, these funds can be used to pay a placement that will aid in meeting the child's immediate needs. The amount above the board rate will be reimbursed by submitting the DSS-1571 Part II.

3. Other local solutions that prevent a child in DSS custody from spending a night in the DSS office while waiting on the appropriate treatment placement as approved by NCDSS. The DSS [Approved Alternative Option form](#) must be emailed to emergency_placement_fund@dhhs.nc.gov. Determination will be made and emailed within 2 business days.

Please note that requests for funding a placement in an unlicensed respite facility is not an approved use of funding, even if the county child welfare agency received court approval for placement in this setting.

The Emergency Placement Funds are available for use. No prior approval is needed by your agency to utilize this funding for purposes of use #1 or #2, only for option #3. Expenditures from all EPF options must be reported on the DSS-1571 Part II and counties should maintain documentation of costs claimed for audit purposes.

A Frequently Asked Questions document is available online [here](#) and will be updated as needed. Utilization of funds will be monitored, and your agency may be contacted to determine if allocated funds will be expended by May 31, 2026.

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

Sincerely,



Adrian Daye
Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and
Human Services

Cc: Lisa Tucker Cauley, Senior Director for Child and Family, and Adult Services
Donna Fayko, Deputy Director
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Child and Family Services
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations
William "Ben" Rose, Regional Director

CWS-63-2025

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Emergency Placement Fund County Allocations

County	FY26 County Allocation
Alamance	12,548
Alexander	11,041
Alleghany	11,086
Anson	10,620
Ashe	10,820
Avery	10,421
Beaufort	12,460
Bertie	10,155
Bladen	11,662
Brunswick	13,213
Buncombe	16,382
Burke	14,277
Cabarrus	13,745
Caldwell	13,235

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Camden	10,022
Carteret	11,950
Caswell	10,532
Catawba	14,277
Chatham	11,728
Cherokee	10,620
Chowan	10,377
Clay	10,332
Cleveland	14,831
Columbus	11,839
Craven	12,305
Cumberland	25,068
Currituck	10,288
Dare	10,576
Davidson	15,296
Davie	11,041

Duplin	10,687
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Durham	14,122
Edgecombe	11,086
Forsyth	14,919
Franklin	10,753
Gaston	17,733
Gates	10,000
Graham	10,931
Granville	10,576
Greene	10,598
Guilford	25,511
Halifax	10,731
Harnett	14,387
Haywood	12,836
Henderson	12,681
Hertford	10,155
Hoke	11,285

Hyde	10,111
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Iredell	13,014
Jackson	11,573
Johnston	14,122
Jones	10,332
Lee	10,709
Lenoir	12,127
Lincoln	11,507
Macon	11,064
Madison	10,421
Martin	10,709
McDowell	12,282
Mecklenburg	18,974
Mitchell	10,510
Montgomery	10,465
Moore	11,352
Nash	11,928

New Hanover	14,254
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Northampton	10,066
Onslow	12,305
Orange	11,684
Pamlico	10,377
Pasquotank	10,753
Pender	11,485
Perquimans	10,399
Person	11,551
Pitt	14,520
Polk	11,086
Randolph	13,235
Richmond	12,105
Robeson	18,487
Rockingham	13,634
Rowan	13,390
Rutherford	13,922

Sampson	12,305
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Scotland	11,440
Stanly	11,640
Stokes	12,903
Surry	13,346
Swain	11,197
Transylvania	10,620
Tyrell	10,000
Union	13,457
Vance	11,972
Wake	21,656
Warren	10,111
Washington	10,620
Watauga	11,108
Wayne	12,216
Wilkes	14,188
Wilson	10,598

Yadkin	10,931
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