



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Health Benefits

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEVPUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

October 15, 2026

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

**SUBJECT: LAUNCH OF CHILD WELFARE TRAUMA-INFORMED ASSESSMENT (CWTIA) ON-
DEMAND TRAINING**

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

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services is pleased to announce the launch of the Child Welfare Trauma-Informed Assessment (CWTIA) on-demand training for county child welfare staff. This training is now available through NCSWLearn.org, titled NC Child Welfare Trauma-Informed Assessment, and is designed to prepare child welfare professionals for statewide implementation of the CWTIA beginning January 1, 2027.

The self-paced, on-demand training provides child welfare staff with information and guidance needed to understand their role in the CWTIA process, including referral requirements, timelines, engagement with children and families, collaboration with qualified behavioral health clinicians, and the use of assessment recommendations to support case planning and service coordination.

As part of the training, participants will have access to a downloadable CWTIA Lap Guide. The Lap Guide is designed as a practical resource that staff can use both during and after completion of the training. It provides an accessible reference to help staff navigate key steps, responsibilities, and considerations throughout the Child Welfare Trauma-Informed Assessment process.

County child welfare agencies are strongly encouraged to support CPS-Assessment, CPS-In Home, and CPS Permanency Planning staff in completing the on-demand training prior to the January 1, 2027, statewide launch of the CWTIA. Because the training is available on demand, staff may complete it at a time that best accommodates county operations and may return to the training and associated resources as needed. Counties may also use the training as an ongoing resource for newly hired staff following implementation.

Post-Training Office Hours

To further support county child welfare agencies with implementation, NC DHHS-DSS will offer CWTIA Office Hours specifically for child welfare staff. Staff are encouraged to attend Office Hours

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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after completing the on-demand training, allowing these sessions to build upon the foundational information provided in the course.

Virtual Office Hours will provide an opportunity for county staff to ask questions, seek clarification regarding the CWTIA process, and receive additional implementation support from NC DHHS-DSS. These sessions are intended to complement the on-demand training and provide a forum for addressing practical questions that may arise as counties prepare for and begin implementation.

Join Office Hours:

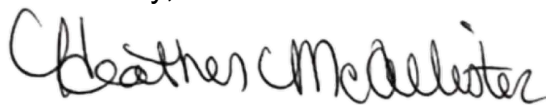
- Tuesday October 27, 2026, 10:00 am – 11:00 am:
<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/29670182843786?p=ACBI17XkdgFu18zL0W>
- Thursday October 29, 2026, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm:
<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/272293320871595?p=OSduLMcofXbXuksOpP>
- Tuesday November 10, 2026, 10:00 am – 11:00 am:
<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/250337372713222?p=XO1AUyIH3bFSBaZ72z>
- Thursday November 12, 2026, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm:
<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/240069256842262?p=bkdIjxbuqXPXIEu9Mm>
- Tuesday December 8, 2026, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm:
<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/25005069380261?p=yMbe9ESUYiHEUxqrYK>
- Friday December 11, 2026, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm:
<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/259166279207407?p=MKozKD34mSyKmLCuEY>

Additional implementation support and resources will continue to be provided as counties prepare for the January 1, 2027, launch.

NC DHHS-DSS appreciates the continued partnership of county child welfare agencies in preparing for implementation of the Child Welfare Trauma-Informed Assessment. The CWTIA represents an important statewide effort to strengthen the identification and understanding of children's trauma-related needs and support informed case planning, service coordination, and improved outcomes for children and families.

Questions regarding the CWTIA, training, or implementation support may be directed to Larissa Berger, Children's Health and Development Coordinator, Larissa.Spell-Berger@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Heather McAllister, MSW, LCSW, LCAS, CBIS
Section Chief for Well-Being
NC Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare

CC: Lisa Tucker Cauley, Division Director, Human Services, Child, Family, and Adult Regional Support
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Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety
Meredith Houchins, Interim Section Chief for County Operations
Crystalle Williams, Section Chief for Workforce and Staff Development

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