NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

JOSH STEIN • Governor
DEVDUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary
LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

November 19, 2026

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS, SUPERVISORS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS

SUBJECT*:* ADOPTION ASSISTANCE DIRECT DEPOSIT UPDATE

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

Dear County Director
North Carolina is transitioning Adoption Assistance (AA) payments into a new statewide system, Partnership and Technology Hub for NC (PATH NC). This transition will ultimately move all AA payments to direct deposit. The original plan was to begin sending AA payments through Direct Deposit with the January 2027 payments.

Adoptive Parents in Groups 1-5 received a letter in their October check with instructions on how to register for an NCID, become registered in PATH NC, and then submit their banking information through the family portal.

Due to the time required to complete enrollment and registration activities for all Adoption Assistance recipients, direct deposit **will not** begin with the January payment cycle as originally anticipated. This decision was made to allow time for all information needed to be gathered to ensure a successful transition to Direct Deposit.

All Adoption Assistance payments issued in January 2027 will be mailed as paper checks.

In the meantime, if you are a group 1-5 county, **please ask your adoptive parents to continue to complete the registration process and follow all enrollment instructions provided.**

Additional information regarding direct deposit implementation timeline will be provided once it has been finalized.

Thank you for your continued partnership and care.

Sincerely,



Adrian W. Daye, MSW
Section Chief, Permanency
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
Carla West, Interim Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being
Donna Fayko, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Adrian W. Daye, Section Chief for Permanency

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