



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for
Human Services

July 16, 2020

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, FISCAL OFFICERS

SUBJECT: FEDERAL CARES ACT FUNDING – **UPDATED APS/CPS Essential Worker
Additional Costs – Guidance and Clarification**

REQUIRED ACTION: ___ Information Only ___ Time Sensitive **X Immediate**

PURPOSE

The General Assembly passed Session Law 2020-4, the 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act, which appropriated federal CARES Act funding to include \$8.3 million allocated to county DSS agencies to support additional Adult Protective Services/Child Protective Services **salary** costs. These funds are made available effective March 1, 2020 and must be expensed by 12/30/2020.

Use of Funds

- Can only be used to pay additional, previously unbudgeted **salary** costs associated with pandemic-driven workforce shortfalls.
- Cannot be used to supplant current funding streams.
- **Further clarification defines that funds CANNOT be used to pay hazard pay or emergency pay as previously indicated.**
- Can be used to pay overtime, paid compensatory time, temporary/time-limited worker **salary** costs.
- Used for:
APS Evaluations, Planning, Mobilizing services.
CPS Investigations, Assessment, In-Home services.
- Overtime/Compensatory time expenditures paid due to staff shortages caused by COVID-19 illness, quarantine, care for COVID positive family members, closed child-care, closed schools during the eligibility period.
- Cost of additional temporary workers hired due to staff shortages, increase in referrals related to schools and senior facilities reopening.
- Cost of hired contract staff needed due to staffing shortages, increase in referrals related to schools and senior facilities reopening.
- Current guidance directs that funds must be expensed by the Department by December 30, 2020. In order to meet that timeline, counties will need to submit final costs on the December 15th, 1571 submission. Discussions continue with NCPRO concerning potential for December costs submission. We will update additional information as that becomes available.

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

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Accessing Funds / Requesting Reimbursement

Counties will receive a Funding Authorization with per-county allocation proportional to CPS/APS assessments in 2019. Attached is the per-county allocation calculation. These expenses will be claimed for reimbursement through the NC-CoReLS/1571 system, via new APS 203 and CPS 213 Part II service codes, application codes 303 and 309. A revised SIS Manual to include these codes/definitions will be posted shortly. Funds are available retroactive to March 1, 2020 via prior period adjustment. Counties must maintain documentation to support appropriate use and expense.

If you have questions or need clarification about these funds, please contact your Local Business Liaison.

Sincerely,



Richard Stegenga
Deputy Director, Business Operations
Division of Social Services

Cc: Susan G. Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations
Zachary E. Wortman, Chief Operating Officer, Human Services
Lisa Tucker Cauley, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Services
Karey Perez, Adult Services Section Chief
Hank Bowers, Assistant Director for Aging and Adult Services

Attachment: APS/CPS County Funding Detail

BG-09-2020