

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services

325 North Salisbury Street • 2406 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2406

Courier # 56-20-25

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary Sherry S. Bradsher, Director (919) 733-3055

September 14, 2009

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: 2009-2010 PLANS FOR USE OF TANF-DV FUNDS

County Department of Social Services and local domestic violence agencies should meet to develop or amend 2009-2010 Plans for use of TANF-DV Funds. **The Plan must be received by September 28, 2009. It must be signed by the Director, the director's designee, for both the county department of social services and the domestic violence program.** The Division of Social Services and a representative from the NC Council for Women will review the Plan. The county department of social services and local domestic violence agencies will be notified once the Plan is approved. The 2009-2010 TANF-DV funds authorized for the county will be shared at that time.

The purpose of the TANF-DV funds is to provide direct services to victims and survivors of domestic violence. Some of the services may include relocation expenses, rent/mortgage payments, deposits, transportation, etc. Counties are encouraged to be innovative in determining how to meet the needs of the clients. Remember, these funds may not be used for domestic violence agency staff time if that time is already covered by another grant. Shelter costs may only be charged if the cost of shelter is not already paid for by another grant.

A Sample Plan and Guidelines are attached. The Plan should state the services that will be provided and the manner in which the services will be delivered. Please reference the Sample Plan and use it as a template or guide as to what information should be included in the county plan.

Empirical data and experiential work has confirmed that there frequently is a cooccurrence of child abuse in reports of domestic violence. It is important that we partner with the local domestic violence programs in recognizing the dynamics of domestic violence and the interplay with child abuse to better protect children and non-offending parents. Together we are better able to meet our mandate of protecting children, while ensuring positive outcomes for the safety of the non-offending parent and children in the family. The Division of Social Services recognizes that to ensure the safety of the nonoffending parent often ensures the safety of the child. Interventions are strengthened by the collaborative efforts of the Department of Social Services and the Domestic Violence Programs. The collaborative relationship that begins with the development of the TANF- DV Plan should be strengthened with the development of referral procedures and protocols that facilitate positive interventions.

Please submit **two copies (one original signed in** *blue ink* **and one copy)** of your county's 2009-2010 Plan by **September 28, 2009** to:

(MAILING ADDRESS)

North Carolina Division of Social Services Child Welfare Services Attn: Eric Zechman 2406 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-2406

(DELIVERY ADDRESS for UPS, FEDEX & DHL))

North Carolina Division of Social Services Child Welfare Services Attn: Eric Zechman 325 N. Salisbury Ste. 735 Raleigh, NC 27603

There is an ongoing concern about counties who historically under spend. Work First and Child Welfare consultants will continue to provide technical assistance throughout the year to support under-spending counties.

Any questions regarding instructions issued in this letter should be directed to Eric Zechman via email at <u>eric.zechman@dhhs.nc.us</u> or by phone at (919) 334-1108.

Sincerely, Chanse S. Johnson

Charisse S. Johnson, Chief Child Welfare Services

Attachments: <u>Family Domestic Violence Sample Plan</u> <u>Guidelines for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families/Domestic Violence Funds</u>

cc: Sherry S. Bradsher Jack Rogers Sarah Barham Child Welfare Services Team Leaders Children's Services Program Representatives Local Business Liaisons Regulatory and Licensing Services Consultants

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