

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

2408 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2408

Michael F. Easley, Governor Dempsey Benton, Secretary Sherry S. Bradsher, Director (919) 733-3055

January 29, 2008

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: Work First Program Administrators and Supervisors

SUBJECT: Federal Guidance on Civil Rights and the Work First Program

In December 2007, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and the HHS Office of Civil Rights (OCR) issued a joint letter to provide guidance on working with TANF applicants and recipients under the requirements of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) while adhering to federal civil rights laws. We are providing this guidance to you through the attached document.

This is extremely important information, and we encourage you to make sure that all staff in your Work First Program are following this guidance.

Sincerely,

Chausse S. Johnson

Charisse Johnson, Chief Family Support and Child Welfare Services Section

Carlotta Dixon Civil Rights Coordinator

cc: Sherry Bradsher Jo Ann Lamm Sarah Barham Family Support and Child Welfare Team Leaders Work First Representatives

FSCWS-05-08