



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

December 3, 2024

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, ADULT AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES SUPERVISORS AND PROGRAM MANAGERS

SUBJECT: NC DSS ESSENTIAL SERVICES FUNDS FOR HURRICANE HELENE

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

The NC Division of Social Services is responsible for allocating Essential Services Funds to county departments of social services to provide essential services and supports for recovery efforts to both vulnerable adults involved with the adult services system and children and families involved in the child welfare system who have been impacted by Hurricane Helene. *These funds shall not be used for any reason other than the provision of services and supports to those impacted by Hurricane Helene.*

NOTE: This is notice of the anticipated allocation that will be advanced to the local County Department of Social Services. You will receive notification of when the funds will be available.

Two separate streams of funding will be allocated: \$1,400,000 for Adult Services and \$3,000,000 for Child Welfare Services. To ensure allocations align with the scope and severity of impact, a tiered approach was applied based on county impact categories from the Governor's Hurricane Helene Recovery Recommendations and Preliminary Damage and Needs Assessment dated October 23, 2024. Of the 25 counties identified in the federal disaster declaration on September 28, 2024:

- 15 counties were classified as **Critical** – Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey
- 10 counties were classified as **High** – Alexander, Alleghany, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, and Wilkes

Funding may be used for any essential services provided from the date of declaration, September 28, 2024. No prior approval is needed by your agency to utilize this funding. The Department will review spending across all 25 counties by March 31, 2025. The review will assess whether each county has utilized its allocated funds and whether there is any unspent balance. If counties have not used their allocated funds or have a large remaining balance, the Department may reallocate those funds. Reallocation will be made to counties that demonstrate a greater need for assistance.

Eligible essential services include providing medical care for physical and mental health needs that are not covered by Medicaid or other health insurance, assistance with personal hygiene, support for obtaining suitable food, clothing, electronics, school supplies, and essential household and personal items. Additionally, funding may be used for locating and providing rental or mortgage assistance, housing-related repairs, modifications, and utility expenses. It also covers protection against health and safety hazards and safeguarding against abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

An Essential Services Fund Reporting Form has been developed for counties to monitor both the receipt and utilization of funds. This tool is specifically designed for the 25 designated counties to track fund use, while the remaining 75 counties can use it to request reimbursement for eligible expenses.

The 25 designated counties are required to use the Reporting Form as funds are disbursed. This ensures that all data is accurate and up to date, allowing for proper tracking and decision-making regarding the reallocation of funds.

The other 75 counties may request funding for any child or adult open for an eligible service code residing in an impacted county or who was residing in an impacted county and experienced an impact from the disaster. These counties must have paid an eligible expense and submit a reimbursement request using the Reporting Form. Reimbursement requests from the other 75 counties may be submitted at any time and will be processed in the order received until funds are depleted. Counties will receive approved reimbursements by electronic funds transfer.

The Essential Services Reporting Form may be accessed using this link:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ab48f8029d9841b8a6532b62a4553cf7>

Required information for submission includes:

- Name of county
- First and last name of person completing survey
- Email of the person completing survey
- SIS/CNDS ID you are reporting on
- Program - select either Adult Services or Child Welfare
- Eligible Service Code
- Services provided with these funds, selected from a list of essential services
- Amount spent by county for each individual (medical and non-medical services are reported on the form separately)

Due to separate allocation of funds to Adult Services and Child Welfare Services, there will be unique qualifications for each program as described below.

Adult Services

The funding allows county departments of social services to provide essential services for adults with open Adult Services cases (107, 111, 202 and 204 Services) on a signed DSS-5027. Counties should report using the individual's SIS number.

The Adult Services Essential Services Fund totals \$1,400,000. Of that amount, \$1,260,000 is allocated to the 25 counties identified in the disaster declaration. This allocation is determined using a pro-rata formula based on each county's Adult Protective Services (APS) and Guardianship caseloads as of September 30, 2024. Within this allocation, \$250,000 is evenly distributed, providing each county with a base amount of \$10,000. An additional \$340,000 is distributed proportionally to all 25 counties according to each county's caseload, while \$670,000 is allocated specifically to the 15 counties classified as Critical, also based on APS and Guardianship caseloads. The remaining \$140,000 is reserved to support the other 75 counties with clients receiving guardianship services who may be placed in one of the 25 affected counties or who were residing there and impacted by the disaster.

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

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603

MAILING ADDRESS: 2410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2410

www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6340 • FAX: 919-334-1123

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Child Welfare Services

The funding allows county departments of social services to provide essential services for children and their families with open Child Welfare cases (210, 215, 215-Z, 109, 109-Z, 132, 135, and 136 Services). When reporting on the survey, counties should utilize the individual's CNDS number, but if a CNDS number is not available, they may utilize the SIS number.

Expenditures for children and families with service codes 215-Z and 109-Z may be federally reimbursable. Any state funds utilized, but later determined to be federally reimbursable, will be reallocated to the state portion of the disaster funding.

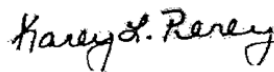
The state portion of the Child Welfare Essential Services Fund in the amount of \$3,000,000 is allocated using a tiered approach to address varying levels of hurricane impact across counties. The allocation method distributes \$500,000 equally among all 25 counties, providing each a base allocation of \$20,000. Another \$700,000 is distributed proportionally to all 25 counties according to each county's foster care population, and an additional \$1,500,000 is allocated specifically to the 15 counties classified as Critical, based on foster care population. The remaining \$300,000 is reserved to assist the remaining 75 counties with families and children in care placed in one of the 25 impacted counties or who were residing there and impacted by the disaster.

If you have additional questions or need additional information, please contact the Adult Services listserv at dssasup@listserv.unc.edu for Adult Services or Shirley Williams at Shirley.Williams@dhhs.nc.gov for Child Welfare Services.

Sincerely,



Adrian W. Daye
Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice



Karey Perez
Deputy Director for Adult Services
North Carolina Division of Social Services

Cc: Lisa Tucker Cauley, Division Director Child, Family, and Adult Services Regional Support
William "Ben" Rose, Lead Regional Director
Donna Fayko, Interim Deputy Director for County Operations
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Licensing and Regulatory
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Child and Family Services

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