

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEVDUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

CARLA WEST • Division Director, Human Services

May 13, 2025

Dear County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Work First Program Administrators, Manager and Supervisors

Subject: Supplemental Benefit Payment for Select Active Work First Cash Cases

Priority: Information Only

GENERAL INFORATION

Due to continuing decreased caseload sizes across the state, the Division made the determination to utilize excess TANF block grant funding for select Work First Cash cases. The Department of Health and Human Services will be issuing a supplemental payment of five hundred dollars (\$500) for each eligible child.

POLICY PROCEDURES

This supplemental payment follows normal Work First Cash Assistance eligibility and does not include children receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI), nor children subject to a Family Cap exclusion. The supplemental payments are subject to recoupment if ineligibility is later determined, and overpayments are created. Case Managers should follow current Work First policy to determine if overpayments exist.

The calculated benefit amount is based on the number of eligible children for households that:

- Applied for Work First Cash Assistance prior to February 15, 2025.
- Were approved for Work First Cash Assistance and will receive a Work First Cash Assistance payment for March 2025.
- The supplemental benefit payment is an electronic payment separate from the regular Work First Cash Assistance payment.
- NC FAST will automatically issue the supplemental benefit per eligible child for households who remained active on April 30, 2025.
- Households will receive the supplemental payment through the same payment method as their ongoing Work First Cash Assistance payment.
- NC FAST will send a system-generated notice to all Work First Cash Assistance households eligible to receive this supplemental payment. The notice is available in English and Spanish.
- NC FAST will automatically issue payments beginning the week of May 30, 2025.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

Case managers must ensure changed decisions have been reviewed for continued eligibility, changes accepted, and payments removed from hold status to ensure eligible households receive payments. Cases where payments remain in "on hold" status as of 5:00 pm May 23, 2025, will not be captured for this payment.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The Work First Cash Assistance supplemental payments will be issued by the end of May 2025. Submit any questions regarding this policy to the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Specialist Team at DSS.Policy.Questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Allison W Smith, Deputy Director

Division of Social Services

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Economic and Family Services

AWS/abr

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