



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
2001 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2001
Tel 919-733-4534 • Fax 919-715-4645

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

May 24, 2011

Dear County Director:

We are very pleased that North Carolina has been selected as one of nine states to recently be awarded grant funding for the **Work Support Strategies: Streamlining Access, Strengthening Families** initiative. This initiative provides our state with the opportunity to design, test, and implement more effective, streamlined, and integrated approaches to delivering key supports for low-income working families, including health coverage, nutrition benefits, and child care subsidies.

The grant is sponsored by the Ford Foundation and its partners, Urban Institute and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and will fund one year of planning activities. As part of the select group of states, North Carolina will also be a candidate to receive additional funding for implementation years.

The goal of this initiative is to plan for a new service delivery model for North Carolina families in need. Such a service delivery system will serve families and individuals in a holistic manner, asking them to tell their story once rather than multiple times. At the end of our planning year, we aim to have a workable, achievable strategic implementation plan. This plan will provide a road map for realizing a new service delivery model and will lay out our vision for such a system.

To ensure the most effective and deliberative approach to our planning year, we are forming a Steering Committee made up of community stakeholders. This group will meet on a periodic basis to review progress and provide input on our strategic implementation plan. **We invite you to attend our first Steering Committee meeting at 1:00-3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1st in the Royster Building, Room 116, on the Dix Campus (1020 Richardson Lane).** If you are not able to attend in person, we ask that you send the appropriate representative from your organization. Please RSVP to Angela Green at angela.green@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-334-1011.

Your partnership and participation is important to us. We hope you share in our excitement about this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lanier M. Cansler".

Lanier M. Cansler

LMC/arg

cc: Work Support Strategies Workgroup

