

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES
CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH
SECRETARY

WAYNE E. BLACK
DIRECTOR

December 7, 2017

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: Directors, Child Welfare Program Administrators, Managers, & Supervisors, Child Welfare Social Workers

SUBJECT: Transportation Really Is Possible (TRIP) – NC’s Driver’s License Pilot Project

The purpose of this letter is to announce the launch of, and provide information about, North Carolina’s Driver’s License Pilot Project – Transportation Really Is Possible (TRIP). For many young people in foster care, not having access to drive is a barrier to many activities that promote independence. To address this barrier, Session Law 2017-41 directed the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services to establish a two-year pilot project to assist youth in foster care in obtaining their learner’s permits or driver’s licenses.

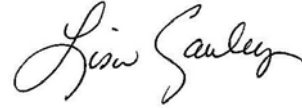
In collaboration with county child welfare agencies, former foster youth, family partners, and other stakeholders, the Division created TRIP to serve as the pilot project designated by Session Law 2017-41. The purpose of TRIP is to provide, on a first-come, first-served basis, funding to support young people and caregivers with costs associated with obtaining a driver’s license or learner’s permit, including insurance, fees, and other costs.

Beginning January 1st, 2018 counties may submit reimbursement requests via email to linksreimbursement@dhhs.nc.gov for TRIP-eligible costs reimbursed to young people and caregivers by the county in the month of December. Funding for this two-year pilot program totals \$75,000 for each year (i.e. \$75,000 for SFY 2017-2018 and \$75,000 for SFY 2018-2019). Given the amount of funding appropriated, and the demand among young people, it is anticipated that these funds will be expended quickly. Reimbursement will be provided based on the availability of funds. Counties will be notified regularly of the status of funding so they may plan accordingly.

For more information, see the attachments to this letter, which include the TRIP Program Criteria and forms that counties will need to implement the program.

If you have questions regarding TRIP and how your agency's young people can access this resource, please contact State LINKS Coordinator, Erin Conner at 919-527-6351 or erin.conner@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa T. Cauley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "C".

Lisa T. Cauley
Deputy Director

CWS-45-2017

Attachments (4):

1. Transportation Really Is Possible (TRIP) Program Criteria
2. TRIP Reimbursement Request Form
3. TRIP Readiness Assessment Form
4. TRIP Youth, Caregiver, Agency Agreement Template
5. TRIP Eligibility and Reimbursement At-A-Glance