



NC DHHS Notice of Funding Availability

Reporting Form

DHHS Division/Office issuing this notice: Division of Social Services

Date of this Notice: 09/18/2025

Title of the Funding Program: Enhanced Emergency Care (EEC)

Purpose of Program: The Division has appropriated \$5,575,000 in non-recurring funds to develop an EEC which is a 24-hour residential placement for up to 90 days to provide an integrated program of stabilization and transitional services and support for children and youth in DSS custody. An EEC is a placement of last resort. EEC supports the Division's goal of ensuring safe, stable, and therapeutic environments for children in crisis while facilitating placement into permanent, family-based settings. EEC facilities will be located strategically across the state, with the long-term goal of establishing at least one facility in each of the seven regions. Initially this funding is to cover the development of three EEC facilities – one in the western region, one in the central region and one in the eastern region.

Description of the Program: An EEC is a 24-hour residential placement for up to 90 days which provides an integrated program of stabilization and transitional services and support for children and youth in DSS custody. There are two phases to an EEC. The first phase is the stabilization phase. Within the first 30 days, a comprehensive assessment will be completed to determine the needs of the child or youth. Once the appropriate services are identified, referrals will be made promptly to initiate service delivery. The second phase is the transition phase. Transition planning begins on the first day of placement. These services are designed to facilitate a successful move to a lower level of care, such as the home of a relative, a foster family, a therapeutic or adoptive family, an independent living arrangement, or another community-based setting.

EEC serves children and youth who meet specific eligibility criteria and are referred through an established, standardized process to ensure timely access and appropriate placement.

Eligible:

- Be ages 9–17 at the time of referral.
- Be in the legal custody of a County DSS.
- Lack a safe and appropriate family-like placement at the time of referral.
- Have experienced placement instability or be at imminent risk of placement disruption.
- Present with behavioral, emotional, or mental health needs that require short-term stabilization in a structured, trauma-informed environment.

Not Eligible:

- Youth under age 9 or over age 17 at the time of referral.
- Youth whose needs require immediate psychiatric hospitalization or a higher level of care than EEC can provide.
- Youth with acute medical needs that cannot be met in a residential care setting.

The implementation of Enhanced Emergency Care services will support measurable improvements across multiple child welfare performance domains, including:

- Reduced inappropriate placements, ensuring fewer children sleep in DSS offices, emergency departments, or other non-residential sites.
- Increased transition to family-like settings, including kinship, foster, therapeutic, or adoptive care, which promotes emotional security and resilience.

- Improved behavioral and emotional well-being, reflecting successful therapeutic engagement and evidence-based care.
- Enhanced permanency planning, with earlier connection to permanent placements and reduced time to permanency.
- Preserved family continuity, including sibling unity and frequent quality visits between children, parents, and siblings.
- Better physical, mental health, and educational outcomes.
- Greater system coordination, strengthening collaboration across child welfare, behavioral health, and education systems, while embedding trauma-informed practices across teams.

Eligibility: Upon review of the Request for Application (RFA), potential Grantees will be able to ascertain their eligibility; including their understanding of EEC, the preliminary requirements and their willingness to engage and to participate in technical assistance and trainings.

How to Apply:

Visit [NCDHHS Social Services Grant Opportunities](#) to download the application.

Technical Assistance Webinar: N/A

Question Submission Deadline: October 1, 2025

Application Deadline: October 30, 2025

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