



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Social Services

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations
for Human Services

September 22, 2020

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEAR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF CHILD PLACING AGENCIES
DEAR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF RESIDENTIAL PROVIDER AGENCIES**

ATTENTION: Directors, Program Managers and Residential Managers

SUBJECT: 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act Funds

REQUIRED ACTION: __ Information Only _x_ Time Sensitive _x_ Immediate

NC DHHS recognizes that the on-going COVID-19 public health crisis has impacted families and children across our state in many ways. The daily needs of children, youth, young adults, and families have increased, and financial resources have been overburdened.

As part of the on-going effort to address these needs, the General Assembly passed Session Law 2020-4, the 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act, which appropriated federal CARES Act funding for children receiving foster care services. County DSS access to these funds for children in their custody, has been made available through a process described in a Directors Letter (BG-08-2020) dated June 15, 2020, and updated in Directors Letter (BG-11-2020) dated September 16, 2020.

Initially, these additional funds, consisting of a supplemental stipend payment of \$100 per month, were available for each child or youth receiving foster care services during the months of April, May, and June 2020. **The funding has been increased and will now include the months of July, August, and September 2020.**

The funds are intended to benefit the children and youth directly. Foster Care stipend funds should be paid directly to the **licensed** foster parent, or residential care provider, who cared for the child or youth during the period, or to the private child placing agency that supervised the foster family, who should, in turn, pay the additional funds to the licensed foster family or facility. Young adults in the Foster Care 18 to 21 program should receive the funds in the same manner their board rate is received. For example, if they receive their board funds directly, they should receive the supplemental payment directly. These funds are not intended to be used in the support of case work activities or administrative costs.

Reimbursement of these funds to the counties has been ongoing since the original notification. All completed stipend submissions using the current *Reimbursement Submission form* have been processed up to September 15, 2020. The original form will be replaced with the new reconciliation form (attached) beginning September 16, 2020. As we transition to the new process and submission form, counties will be contacted concerning the status of any interim submissions.

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LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
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As of September 16, 2020, the state has switched to an **advancement payment process**. County DSS agencies will be advanced the Additional Stipend Funding for all service periods not previously processed. These payments will be based on the final PQA020 Foster Care Payment Report, eligible child counts. The advance payment will cover the previously unclaimed service periods of April to July 2020, include the August 2020 closing totals, and will estimate September 2020 based on the final totals from the previous month. After receipt of the advanced funding, **within 30 days**, county agencies must distribute funds, as indicated above, and file the attached *FC Stipend Advance Payment Reconciliation Form*.

If you have questions or need clarification about the 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act funds, please contact your Regional Child Welfare Consultant or your assigned Regulatory and Licensing Program Consultant.

Thank you for your anticipated participation and cooperation in this important process. As always, thank you for your dedication to serving children and families.

Help protect your family and neighbors from COVID-19.

[Know the 3 Ws. Wear. Wait. Wash.](#) #StayStrongNC and get the latest at nc.gov/covid19.

Sincerely,



Linda L Waite
Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing Services
Division of Social Services

Attachment: FC Stipend Advance Payment Reconciliation Form

Cc: Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations
Lisa T Cauley, Deputy Director for Child Welfare
Teresa Strom, Section Chief for County Operations
Carla McNeill, Section Chief for Permanency Planning
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Prevention and Safety
Richard Stegenga, Deputy Director, Business Operations
Myra Dixon, Public Assistance Unit Manager, Office of the Controller

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