



**Agenda Action Form Overview**

The Board is requested to approve the Department of Social Services request to appropriate \$848,468 for foster care room and board for children placed by the department of which \$299,640 is reimbursable and \$548,838 will be County dollars funded with a fund balance appropriation.

The County is mandated to budget local funds in order to secure the required local matching share when Federal/State financial participation is less than one hundred percent to the county Departments of Social Services. In FY 16 Health and Human Services (HHS) introduced the Voluntary Placement Agreement for Foster Care 18-21 in order to be eligible for State Foster Care Benefit funds resulting in a 21% increase to Durham's foster care cost. Social Services continues to see a 14% yearly increase in foster care cost which has been absorbed within the budget. Social Services provided foster care funding for 148 children in 2014, in 2018 Social Services is servicing 302 children. The increase of 154 children is an increase of 104% of children requiring foster care support.

Durham County is projected to spend \$4,364,392 for foster care during the current FY resulting in a short fall of \$848,478.

\$848,478 Projected Additional Foster Care Expenses  
\$424,239 50% of expenses are non-reimbursable which will be a county cost  
\$424,239 Expenses that are reimbursable  
70.63% Average percentage reimbursed  
\$299,640 Federal/State reimbursement of expenses that are reimbursable

\$424,239 Expenses that are reimbursable  
-\$299,640 Federal/State reimbursement of expenses that are reimbursable  
\$124,599 County share of reimbursable expenses

\$424,239 50% of expenses are non-reimbursable which will be a county cost  
\$124,599 County share of reimbursable expenses  
\$548,838 Total county cost from fund balance appropriated

Summary:  
DSS Expense \$848,478  
DSS Revenue \$299,640  
Fund Bap App \$548,838

**Background/Justification/Policy Impact**

Foster care services are provided in compliance with the statutory requirements of federal and state law. Federal and state law is intended to provide protections for children in foster care, who need safety and permanence, and for their families to ensure that their legal rights are maintained. North Carolina law and policy reflect the federal requirements of Public Law (P.L.) 96-272 and its later amendments.

**Procurement Background**

N/A



**Fiscal Impact**

Funding for foster care is a combination of federal, state and county money. Federal laws have a significant impact on how States fund and deliver child protection, child welfare, and adoption programs and services. The Social Security Act of 1935 provides the basis for all Federal funding requirements for public child welfare services throughout the country. Federal public laws have requirements that each state must meet on a consistent basis in order to continue to receive funding. (From the NC Division of Social Services, Family Services Manual, Children’s Services.)

**Recommendation**

The County Manager recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 19BCC000037 appropriating \$848,478 in additional foster care expenses of which \$299,640 is reimbursable and \$548,838 will be funded with a fund balance appropriation.