



## Social Services

### *Social Services Board*

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*William Rose*  
DSS Director

June 6, 2019

To: Durham County Board of Commissioners  
Durham County Board of Social Services

Cc: Wendell Davis, County Manager  
Gayle Harris, General Manager

From: Ben Rose, Director

Re: Proposed Rule Change for Federal Poverty Levels

The Office of Management and Budget is seeking a rule change to potentially change the methodology for updating the federal poverty line for inflation. They are currently seeking input and public comment on using a traditional lower measure of inflation called Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index versus the currently used Consumer Price Index (CPI). This method would result in lower poverty thresholds and most likely result in lowered thresholds annually.

Changes to this method could potentially impact thousands of Durham County residents and make them ineligible for certain federal programs such as Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, Affordable Care Act Subsidies, and other federal means tested programs. One of the major concerns regarding this change is that it is widely believed the current thresholds already do not reflect the levels it takes to provide for a family and any lowering of these thresholds may further impact the health and well-being of families.

The OMB office is receiving comments through June 21, 2019. Email comments may be received at: [Statistical\\_Directives@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Statistical_Directives@omb.eop.gov) with the subject line: "Directive No. 14". Comments may also be mailed via the address located at the Federal Register site: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/05/07/2019-09106/request-for-comment-on-the-consumer-inflation-measures-produced-by-federal-statistical-agencies>

We wanted to alert you of this proposal for your review and consideration.

Post Office Box 810 ❖ Durham, North Carolina 27701 ❖ (919) 560-8000 ❖ [www.dconnc.gov](http://www.dconnc.gov)

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