



Agenda Action Form Overview

Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. _____ for the Department of Social Services to recognize Emergency Placement Funding for \$14,122.00.

Background/Justification

The Division of Social Services (DSS) acknowledges the ongoing challenges in securing treatment placements for children in DSS custody with complex behavioral health needs. To help address this issue, NCDHHS DSS allocated a portion of the behavioral health investment from the 2023 Appropriations Act to the DSS Emergency Placement Fund.

At the end of SFY 2024–2025, \$1,237,010 in unused Emergency Placement Funds remained and will be reallocated for SFY 2025–2026. To ensure sufficient funding for all counties, each county will receive a base amount of \$10,000 and the remainder of the funds will be allocated based on each county’s percentage of the foster care census. The allocated amounts are listed on the attached spreadsheet. If county expenditures exceed the county’s allocation, any excess payments will be county funded.

Emergency Placement Funds are intended to temporarily assist county departments of social services in addressing identified placement needs for children in the custody of the agencies who are awaiting a Medicaid leveled treatment placement. While children await the location of the placement, these funds can be used to prevent them from staying in a DSS office.

Emergency Placement Funds are to be used to temporarily provide and arrange for essential needs of the individual to establish or maintain a placement. The youth must be opened for 109 Foster Care Case Management Services on a DSS-5027 or in the Child Welfare Information System in order for client specific costs to be claimed for purposes of use #2 or #3 below.

NC DSS has identified the following promising practices which can be supported with these funds:

1. Maintain a crisis placement through a contract that pays a retainer to an identified placement provider who will accept a temporary emergency placement until the appropriate behavioral health treatment placement is located.
2. Pay a short-term temporary enhanced rate to an identified placement provider who is currently or will provide care and supervision to youth who have behaviors that require an exceptional level of supervision. For children who are awaiting a Medicaid leveled treatment placement, these funds can be used to pay a placement that will aid in meeting the child’s immediate needs. The amount above the board rate will be reimbursed by submitting DSS-1571 Part II.
3. Other local solutions that prevent a child in DSS custody from spending a night in the DSS office while waiting on the appropriate treatment placement as approved by NCDSS.

Policy Impact

This agenda item is consistent with historical amendments approved and does not require an exception to board policy.



Procurement Background

N/A

Fiscal Impact

Funds should be identified in Cost Center 5300643000 Expense Line 5200161400 Foster Care and Revenue Line 4300341600 State Foster Home.

Recommendation

The County Manager recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. for the Department of Social Services to recognize Emergency Placement Fund of \$14,122.00.