



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

April 9, 2021

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS,
SUPERVISORS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS**

SUBJECT: *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116-260*

REQUIRED ACTION: ☒ Immediate

PURPOSE: Provide Overview of Current Guidelines

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, Public Law 116-260 provided supplemental appropriations for the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood, Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program, and temporary provisions related to foster care and extended foster care programs.

The temporary provisions include:

- From December 27, 2020 through September 30, 2021, young adults may not be required to leave foster care solely due to age.
- Young adults who left Foster Care 18 to 21 during the COVID-19 public health emergency (defined currently as January 27, 2020 – April 20, 2021, subject to be extended) because of age shall be allowed to re-enter the program. The federal requirement for re-entry expires after September 30, 2021.
- Young adults should not be terminated from the program if failing to meet education or employment eligibility criteria. The young adult's Transition Living Plan should be developed, reviewed and/or revised to meet other eligibility criterion of the program, if appropriate.
- For Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2020 and 2021, Chafee and ETV services and assistance can now be provided to eligible young adults until age 27.
- From October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2022 the maximum Education and Training Voucher (ETV) award amount has increased from \$5,000 to \$12,000 per year. The law allows ETV funding to be used to help support youth to remain enrolled in a post-secondary education or training program, including expenses that are not part of the cost of attendance.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603

MAILING ADDRESS: 2409 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2409

www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6390 • FAX: 919-733-3052

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- For ETV, the requirement that a youth must be enrolled in a post-secondary education or training program or making satisfactory progress toward completing the program due to COVID-19 can be waived under the provisions of the law if a youth is unable to do so.

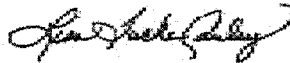
Agencies must continue to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of older youth who remain in or re-enter foster care and continue transition planning.

The law in its entirety is available for review by accessing <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr133/BILLS-116hr133enr.pdf>. The associated Information Memorandum is included on the Children's Bureau website and can be accessed through this link: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/im-21-05.pdf>.

The attached Fact Sheet provides more detailed information. More information and webinars will be scheduled; however, the most relevant information is included in the fact sheet.

If you have any questions, please contact LeAnn McKoy, Foster Care 18-21 Coordinator by email at leann.mckoy@dhhs.nc.gov or by phone at (919) 527-6375 or your Regional Child Welfare Consultant.

Sincerely,



Lisa Tucker Cauley, MSW

Senior Director for Child, Family and Adult Services
NC Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Social Services

Cc: Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations
Carla McNeill, Section Chief for Permanency
Teresa Strom, Section Chief for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention
Linda Waite, Section Chief for Licensing and Regulatory

Attachments:

Public Law 116-260 – Fact Sheet

CWS-12-2021

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Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116-260

Fact Sheet

April 9, 2021

Expanded Foster Care 18 to 21 Program Services

As a result of the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021, young adults 18 to 21 who exited foster care during the pandemic due to age must be provided the opportunity to re-enter the foster care program. Agencies must not terminate or suspend a young adult from participating in Foster Care 18 to 21 due to age or failure to meet employment and educational criteria before October 1, 2021.

County child welfare agencies must identify and provide notice to eligible young adults about their ability to re-enter the Foster Care 18 to 21 program. NC DSS will assist counties in identifying eligible young adults.

Eligibility

For young adults who will remain in the Foster Care 18 to 21 program under the provisions of Public Law 116-260, their original *Determination of Foster Care 18 to 21 Benefits and/or Medical Assistance Only*, form number DSS-5120E, may continue as their foster care and Medicaid eligibility determination.

If a young adult chooses to re-enter into the Foster Care 18 to 21 program under the provisions of Public Law 116-260, redetermination of eligibility on the appropriate form must be completed, as their funding determination may change.

Use the following forms and processes to reflect ongoing participation in the Foster Care 18 to 21 program:

- DSS-5097 – Voluntary Placement Agreement for Foster Care 18 to 21
- DSS-5099 – Placement Agreement for Foster Care 18 to 21
- DSS-5096A – Transitional Living Plan for Youth/Young Adults in Foster Care
- DSS-5096C – Transitional Living Plan 90 Day Transition Plan for Young Adults in Foster Care 18 to 21
- DSS-5120E – Determination of Foster Care 18 to 21 Benefits and/or Medical Assistance Only
- Document in the young adult's case record that the young adult is eligible for entry, re-entry, or continuation in the Foster Care 18 to 21 program in accordance with Public Law 116-260.

Education and Training Vouchers

Maximum award amounts for eligible young adults qualifying for Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) have increased. Waivers are available for young adults who may not meet scholarship requirements due to the pandemic. Currently enrolled students should contact their ETV Coordinator. New students may apply for the ETV program beginning July 1, 2021 at <https://www.fc2sprogram.org/north-carolina/>.

Next Steps

- Additional guidance will be provided regarding the provisions in the act that impact LINKS.
- Webinars and presentations will be scheduled to provide additional technical assistance to agencies.

Questions? Contact

Erin Conner, MSW
LINKS Program Coordinator
(919) 527-6351
Erin.conner@dhhs.nc.gov

LeAnn McKoy, MPA
Foster Care 18 to 21 Program Coordinator
(919) 527-6375
Leann.mckoy@dhhs.nc.gov



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for
Human Services

September 10, 2021

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS,
SUPERVISORS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS**

SUBJECT: Time-Limited Flexibility for use of Supplemental Chafee (LINKS) Funding

REQUIRED ACTION: ☒ Immediate

The Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 116-260) enacted on December 27, 2020, provides supplemental appropriations for the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood and allows flexibility on the spending of those funds that **expires on September 30, 2021**.

Each county in North Carolina will receive a one-time increase in their LINKS allocation from the supplemental funding in the Consolidated Care Act that will be equal to twice the annual allocation they have already received for SFY 2021.

In March, the federal Administration of Children and Families (ACF) issued program instructions (ACYF-CB-PI-21-04) noting that it had heard from many young people who are in or were in foster care that they had not benefited from previous COVID relief efforts including stimulus checks. The program instructions specifically allow a portion of the supplemental funding to be used to provide unrestricted one-time financial assistance to youth/young adults to assist them in meeting their needs during the pandemic. However, the flexibility to provide assistance in this way to eligible young adults expires on **September 30, 2021**.

DHHS is instructing counties to provide assistance for this population of very vulnerable young adults. All young adults who were in foster care at age 14 or older and have not yet reached age 27 are eligible. Assessment of financial need is not required, and no county match is required.

The amounts of one-time unrestricted payments to eligible young adults which may be made under this program are as follows:

- Eligible young adults 18-20--\$2,500.00
- Eligible young adults 21-26--\$5,000.00

To assist counties in making stimulus payments, we are identifying procedures to expense a portion of the supplemental allotment to each county up front and hope to provide additional information and instructions about the upfront expensing of supplemental funding to counties within the next several days. We encourage counties who can make stimulus payments to eligible youth prior to receiving the upfront funding to do so. A template for a letter to send to potentially eligible young adults is attached.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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For tracking and reporting purposes, county departments of social services must list all eligible young adults who received these stimulus funds and the amount received on the 1571 Part II expense reports.

ACF is encouraging states not to count emergency benefits from these supplemental funds when considering recipients eligibility for other services including but not limited to TANF and Child Care.

The supplemental funding will be available to be spent through September 30, 2022, on other LINKS services; however as stated above the window for using these funds for one-time stimulus checks expires on **September 30, 2021**.

For more information, please join the upcoming LINK-Up call on Friday, September 10, 2021 at 10:00am. Follow this link to register: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/rt/3346857731495409409> using access code: 908-614-197.

If you have any questions, please contact Erin Conner, LINKS Program Coordinator at erin.conner@dhhs.nc.gov or by phone at 919-527-6351 or LeAnn McKoy, Foster Care 18-21 Coordinator at leann.mckoy@dhhs.nc.gov or by phone at (919) 527-6375. You may also contact your Regional Child Welfare Consultant.

Sincerely,

Carla McNeill

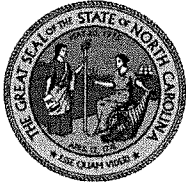
Carla McNeill, MSW
Section Chief for Permanency Planning
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human
Services

Cc: Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations
Richard Stegenga, Deputy Director, Business Operations
Lisa Tucker Cauley, Senior Director of Child, Family and Adult Services
Teresa Strom, Section Chief for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Child Protective Services and Prevention
Linda Waite, Section Chief for Licensing and Regulatory

Attachments:

- ACYF-CB-PI-21-04 (program instructions for the Consolidated Appropriations Act)
- Supplemental Chafee Calculations By County 9.9.2021
- Standardized Letter to Young Adults Template

CWS-33-2021



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for
Human Services

September 17, 2021

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS,
SUPERVISORS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS**

SUBJECT: Time-Limited Flexibility for use of Supplemental Chafee (LINKS) Funding

REQUIRED ACTION: ☒ Immediate

The Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 116-260) enacted on December 27, 2020, provides supplemental appropriations for the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood and allows flexibility on the spending of those funds that expires on September 30, 2021.

Young adults who are or were in foster care have been in foster care have experienced job loss and other impacts of the pandemic and many of them have not benefited from prior COVID relief efforts, including stimulus checks. On September 10, 2021 NC DHHS, NC DSS sent a Dear County Director letter instructing counties to provide one-time unrestricted payments to this population of very vulnerable young adults.

All young adults who are at least 18 years old and are not yet 27 and were in foster care at age 14 or older are eligible. Assessment of financial need is not required, and no county match is required.

The amounts of one-time unrestricted payments per eligible young adult which may be made under this program are as follows:

- Eligible young adults 18-20--\$2,500.00
- Eligible young adults 21-26--\$5,000.00

Required Steps

As funding for these young adults expires September 30, 2021, specific steps must be followed to ensure funds are obligated and counties are reimbursed timely. County departments of social services must complete the following steps:

1. Conduct diligent efforts to identify, locate, and reach out to eligible young adults. Diligent efforts to conduct outreach means those efforts that are reasonably likely to identify, locate, and inform young adults of these payments for which they are eligible.
2. Create a financial obligation (check requisition, purchase request, etc.) for each eligible young adult located who will be receiving the one-time unrestricted payment by September 30th, 2021. This does not require counties to cut a check by September 30th, only to create the obligation.

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3. Complete the attached DSS-5217a Request for Payment of Time-Limited Supplemental LINKS Funds.
4. Submit completed DSS-5217a and copies of each check requisition via email to linksreimbursement@dhhs.nc.gov by September 30, 2021. These can be submitted at any time, they should not need to be held.

After the request forms are received NC DSS will submit to the DHHS Controller's Office for payment to counties. Counties will receive these payments through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). There is no 1571 reporting requirement for these funds.

These funds are capped, 100 percent federal funds with no county match required. Attached is a spreadsheet showing budgeted funds, per county. Counties will be reimbursed only up to their per-county budget amount. As counties are reviewing their situation, please communicate budget needs via the LINKS email so we may evaluate total funds availability and attempt to redirect funds as time allows.

If you have any questions, please contact LeAnn McKoy, Foster Care 18-21 Coordinator at leann.mckoy@dhhs.nc.gov or by phone at (919) 527-6375 or Shirley Williams, Special Programs Manager at shirley.williams@dhhs.nc.gov or by phone at (919) 527-6404. You may also contact your Regional Child Welfare Consultant.

Sincerely,

Carla McNeill

Carla McNeill, MSW
Section Chief for Permanency Planning
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human
Services

Cc: Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations
Richard Stegenga, Deputy Director, Business Operations
Lisa Tucker Cauley, Senior Director of Child, Family and Adult Services
Teresa Strom, Section Chief for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Child Protective Services and Prevention
Linda Waite, Section Chief for Licensing and Regulatory

Attachments:

- DSS-5217a Request for Payment of Time-Limited Supplemental LINKS Funds

CWS-37-2021

County	21-22 Regular LINKS Allocation		Supplemental 21-22 LINKS Allocation	
Alamance	\$	18,172.00	\$	72,688.00
Alexander	\$	7,652.00	\$	30,608.00
Alleghany	\$	8,258.00	\$	33,032.00
Anson	\$	1,798.00	\$	7,192.00
Ashe	\$	10,370.00	\$	41,480.00
Avery	\$	6,154.00	\$	24,616.00
Beaufort	\$	13,711.00	\$	54,844.00
Bertie	\$	2,596.00	\$	10,384.00
Bladen	\$	6,951.00	\$	27,804.00
Brunswick	\$	17,531.00	\$	70,124.00
Buncombe	\$	58,168.00	\$	232,672.00
Burke	\$	29,078.00	\$	116,312.00
Cabarrus	\$	18,370.00	\$	73,480.00
Caldwell	\$	26,238.00	\$	104,952.00
Camden	\$	2,899.00	\$	11,596.00
Carteret	\$	10,015.00	\$	40,060.00
Caswell	\$	4,000.00	\$	16,000.00
Catawba	\$	40,412.00	\$	161,648.00
Chatham	\$	17,535.00	\$	70,140.00
Cherokee	\$	13,418.00	\$	53,672.00
Chowan	\$	3,601.00	\$	14,404.00
Clay	\$	5,758.00	\$	23,032.00
Cleveland	\$	35,509.00	\$	142,036.00
Columbus	\$	15,565.00	\$	62,260.00
Craven	\$	18,420.00	\$	73,680.00
Cumberland	\$	140,073.00	\$	560,292.00
Currituck	\$	4,653.00	\$	18,612.00
Dare	\$	6,505.00	\$	26,020.00
Davidson	\$	29,746.00	\$	118,984.00
Davie	\$	10,061.00	\$	40,244.00
Duplin	\$	9,360.00	\$	37,440.00
Durham	\$	64,685.00	\$	258,740.00
Edgecombe	\$	8,003.00	\$	32,012.00
Forsyth	\$	43,556.00	\$	174,224.00
Franklin	\$	11,961.00	\$	47,844.00
Gaston	\$	66,148.00	\$	264,592.00
Gates	\$	2,319.00	\$	9,276.00
Graham	\$	5,149.00	\$	20,596.00
Granville	\$	6,105.00	\$	24,420.00
Greene	\$	5,451.00	\$	21,804.00
Guilford	\$	86,697.00	\$	346,788.00
Halifax	\$	9,413.00	\$	37,652.00
Harnett	\$	27,668.00	\$	110,672.00
Haywood	\$	15,310.00	\$	61,240.00
Henderson	\$	32,055.00	\$	128,220.00
Hertford	\$	2,149.00	\$	8,596.00
Hoke	\$	10,557.00	\$	42,228.00
Hyde	\$	2,149.00	\$	8,596.00
Iredell	\$	20,527.00	\$	82,108.00
Jackson	\$	10,816.00	\$	43,264.00
Johnston	\$	46,572.00	\$	186,288.00

Jones	\$	1,447.00	\$	5,788.00
Lee	\$	6,249.00	\$	24,996.00
Lenoir	\$	13,461.00	\$	53,844.00
Lincoln	\$	19,710.00	\$	78,840.00
Macon	\$	6,058.00	\$	24,232.00
Madison	\$	11,656.00	\$	46,624.00
Martin	\$	7,302.00	\$	29,208.00
McDowell	\$	22,175.00	\$	88,700.00
Mecklenburg	\$	124,138.00	\$	496,552.00
Mitchell	\$	11,351.00	\$	45,404.00
Montgomery	\$	3,951.00	\$	15,804.00
Moore	\$	5,755.00	\$	23,020.00
Nash	\$	13,013.00	\$	52,052.00
New Hanover	\$	60,218.00	\$	240,872.00
Northampton	\$	1,447.00	\$	5,788.00
Onslow	\$	41,984.00	\$	167,936.00
Orange	\$	16,476.00	\$	65,904.00
Pamlico	\$	2,197.00	\$	8,788.00
Pasquotank	\$	2,898.00	\$	11,592.00
Pender	\$	18,216.00	\$	72,864.00
Perquimans	\$	1,447.00	\$	5,788.00
Person	\$	14,817.00	\$	59,268.00
Pitt	\$	47,601.00	\$	190,404.00
Polk	\$	9,407.00	\$	37,628.00
Randolph	\$	25,792.00	\$	103,168.00
Richmond	\$	8,664.00	\$	34,656.00
Robeson	\$	40,780.00	\$	163,120.00
Rockingham	\$	21,487.00	\$	85,948.00
Rowan	\$	28,065.00	\$	112,260.00
Rutherford	\$	27,527.00	\$	110,108.00
Sampson	\$	17,179.00	\$	68,716.00
Scotland	\$	11,912.00	\$	47,648.00
Stanly	\$	3,600.00	\$	14,400.00
Stokes	\$	17,071.00	\$	68,284.00
Surry	\$	11,327.00	\$	45,308.00
Swain	\$	7,509.00	\$	30,036.00
Transylvania	\$	15,310.00	\$	61,240.00
Tyrrell	\$	1,845.00	\$	7,380.00
Union	\$	22,477.00	\$	89,908.00
Vance	\$	4,606.00	\$	18,424.00
Wake	\$	126,947.00	\$	507,788.00
Warren	\$	1,447.00	\$	5,788.00
Washington	\$	3,951.00	\$	15,804.00
Watauga	\$	10,210.00	\$	40,840.00
Wayne	\$	13,411.00	\$	53,644.00
Wilkes	\$	36,639.00	\$	146,556.00
Wilson	\$	8,903.00	\$	35,612.00
Yadkin	\$	14,370.00	\$	57,480.00
Yancey	\$	6,855.00	\$	27,420.00
Total	\$	2,020,725.00	\$	8,082,900.00

Christina Kennedy

From: Laurie Britt
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 4:47 PM
To: Christina Kennedy
Subject: Links funding, consolidated appropriations act
Attachments: 4-9-21 DCD ltr Links consolidated appr act.pdf; 9-10-21 DCD ltr Links consolidated appr act.pdf; 9-17-21 DCDL_CWS_37_2021_Time-Limited Flexibility for use of Supplemental Chafee (LINKS) Funding.pdf; 9-17-21 Supplemental Chafee Calculations_By County 9.9.2021.xlsxreset.xlsx; Purchase Order # P72309.PDF; Fact sheet consolidated appr. act.pdf

Christina,

Per our discussion earlier I have attached all of the info I have regarding this funding including the purchase order. The purchase order is for more than our funding because we were led to believe there was a lot more funding out there to grab but now we do not think that is the case. I believe our total funding will be \$77,500.

Please let me know what questions you still have.

Thank you for working through this with us.

Laurie

Laurie A. Britt
Brunswick County DSS
Business Officer
PO Box 219
Bolivia, NC 28422
Phone: 910-253-2092
Fax: 910-253-2249
laurie.britt@brunswickcountync.gov

Board meeting
Appropriate
\$77,500
145310 - 465510
JM

**COUNTY OF BRUNSWICK
FINANCE DEPARTMENT**
P.O. BOX 249
BOLIVIA, N.C. 28422

PURCHASE ORDER NO.	
This order number must appear on all packages, invoices, packing list, etc.	P72309

VENDOR: SOCIAL SERVICES
PO BOX 219
BOLIVIA, NC 28422-0219

CONTACT/BILL/SHIP TO: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
PO BOX 219
BOLIVIA, NC 28422-0219

(910) 253-2077

VENDOR PHONE:		VENDOR FAX:	TERMS:	REQUESTED BY:	DATE ISSUED:
			Net 30	BRITT, LAURIE	09/22/21
ITEM	QUANTITY	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	EXTENSION
01	1	EA	Links Consolidated Appropriations Act payments 145310-449920	100,000.00 100,000.00	100,000.00
				<i>Reduce PO To \$ 77,500 Am move to Covid Line 465510</i>	
				TOTAL	100,000.00

**TOTAL DOES NOT INCLUDE SALES TAX
VENDOR ADD SALES TAX TO THE INVOICE**

ATTENTION VENDOR:

*Brunswick County shall not be liable for payment in excess of this purchase order total amount. If the amount of this purchase order is not sufficient, please notify the requesting party at the telephone number above.

*Brunswick County is not tax-exempt. Sales tax should be included on all invoices.

*By accepting this purchase order vendors, contractors, and/or subcontractors affirm they are not listed and will not utilize a subcontractor listed on the Final Divestment List created by the State Treasurer pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-6A-4, Iran Divestment Act Certification.

This instrument has been pre-audited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

Julie A. Miller
FINANCE OFFICER