





NC Department of Health and Human Services

Benchmarks Presentation

Presenter:
North Carolina Division of Social Services

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Black Mountain Office

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NC DSS Updates

Statewide Assessment

- Initial phase of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process.
- One component of the CFSR.
- Gather and analyze qualitative and quantitative data.
- Substantial conformity with requirements.
- Conducting focus groups and surveys in October and November 2023.

HB 815: The Loving Home Act

- **Families with five (5) children in the home have previously been barred from becoming licensed foster parents.**
- **Families with five (5) children will be able to become licensed as a family foster home for the placement of siblings.**
- **NC DSS is required to submit an amended State Plan to the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services for approval in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 671 to maintain federal funding for foster care maintenance payments prior to implementation.**
- **NC DSS has submitted the amended State Plan to The Administration of Children and Families (ACF).**

Kinship Licensure Track

"For the purpose of title IV-E eligibility, the home of an individual or family licensed or approved as meeting the standards established by the licensing or approval authority(ies), that provides 24-hour out-of-home care for children. The licensing authority must be a state authority in the state in which the foster family home is located, a tribal authority with respect to a foster family home on or near an Indian Reservation, or a tribal authority of a tribal title IV-E agency with respect to a foster family home in the tribal title IV-E agency's service area. ***Agencies may establish one set of foster family home licensing or approval standards for all relative or kinship foster family homes that are different from the set of standards used to license or approve all non-relative foster family homes.*** *Anything less than full licensure or approval is insufficient for meeting title IV-E eligibility requirements. Title IV-E agencies may, however, claim title IV-E reimbursement during the period of time between the date a prospective foster family home satisfies all requirements for licensure or approval and the date the actual license is issued, not to exceed 60 days."*

Removed From Foster Family Home Definition

- “foster family homes that are approved must be held to the same standards as foster family homes that are licensed…”

- “the term may include group homes, agency-operated boarding homes or other facilities licensed or approved for the purpose of providing foster care by the state or tribal agency responsible for approval or licensing of such facilities

Next Steps

Review policy and administrative rule.

Potential form revisions.

Guidance documents will be created.

Communication and Engagement.



A Couple More Things…

Adoption Promotion Program RFP:

The purpose of the Adoption Promotion Program (APP) is to enhance and expand adoption programs, to secure permanent homes for children in foster care with special needs who are harder to place, and to encourage partnerships between public and private agencies to achieve permanency for children in a timely manner.

The request for proposals was posted **November 1st**. Vendors must be registered with the vendor portal to be able to submit proposals. https://evp.nc.gov/

It's On!!

Agency Provider Meeting: 11/16/23 1:00pm-2:30pm

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