

Division of Social Services

Purpose: To provide income and employment supports to North Carolina's most vulnerable residents and provides protection and safety for children who are at-risk or who have been abused or neglected.

Key Services:

Child Protection, Foster Care and Adoptions

Child Protection provides intervention services to assist and help prevent further harm to children from abuse, exploitation or neglect by a parent or caretaker.

Foster Care Services provide temporary substitute care to a child who must be separated from his/her parents or caretakers when the parents or caretakers are unable or unwilling to provide adequate protection and care.

Adoption Services provide recruitment, assessment and selection of adoptive homes; casework services to adoptive families to support and sustain the placement and facilitate the finalization of the adoption.

Of services administered by DSS, Foster Care, Adoptions and Child Protective Services represent 33% of the total budget and 86% of the appropriated budget. The SFY 11-12 budget for Child Protection, Foster Care and Adoptions totals \$375.8 of which 74% is supported with receipts and 26% state appropriations. 16% of the appropriated funding for these services is used to match federal funds.

Each of these services is a core component of North Carolina's child welfare system and is provided locally by county Departments of Social Services and private providers. Of funds supporting these services 94% are allocated to local DSSs.

Other child welfare services provided by DSS (e.g. Family Violence Prevention) and in other Divisions within the Department (e.g. Early Intervention) help to mitigate the need for children needing these core services.

Child and Family Income Supports

Child and Family Income Supports include:

Work First

Child Support

Crisis Intervention and Low Income Energy Assistance

Food Nutrition Service

Refugee Assistance

Of services administered by DSS, these safety net services represent 61% of the total budget and 5% of the appropriated budget. The SFY 11-12 budget for Child and Family Income Supports totals \$695M of which 99% is supported with receipts and 1% state appropriations. 41% of the appropriated funding for these services is used to match federal funds.

These services are provided locally by county Departments of Social Services and private providers. Of funds supporting these services 85% are allocated to local DSSs.

Other Departmental Services

The budget for the Division of Social Services also includes funding allocated to local DSSs for services provided by the Divisions of Aging and Adult Services (Adult Services), Child Development (Child Care Subsidy Administration) and Medical Assistance (Medicaid and Health Choice Administration).

The Division receives funding from 28 different federal grants which require various matching and maintenance of effort requirements.