



## ***Economic Services Division***

The Economic Services Division serves as the county's safety net for the economic wellbeing for the county's most vulnerable citizens by offering an array of benefits to enable our citizens to meet their basic survival needs. They include the following:

**Childcare Services:** Day Care Assistance is a child care subsidy program for families who need help paying day care costs for their children from birth through 12 years old while they work or attend school. The Day Care Assistance program has limited funding, and children may be placed on a waiting list if funding is not currently available.

**Food and Nutrition Services (FNS):** The Food and Nutrition Services Program is designed to promote the general welfare and to safeguard the health and well-being of the nation's population by raising the levels of nutrition among low-income households.

**Medical Assistance:** (Medicaid) A program to assist eligible aged, disabled, blind, individuals, pregnant women, families and/or children with the cost of medical care.

**Long Term Care Medicaid (LTC):** This category of Medicaid evaluates individuals for nursing homes, community alternative programs (CAP) the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the elderly (PACE). In this area, Medicaid must approve the need for the level of care and some of applicant's income must be used for the cost of care which is called the "patient monthly liability".

**Family and Children Medicaid:** Family Medicaid is a health insurance program for families and individuals whose income makes it difficult for them to afford health care. It is a publicly funded program governed by federal and state laws.

**North Carolina Health Choice:** North Carolina Health Choice is falls under the Title 21 of the Social Security Act and provides comprehensive medical insurance for child under 21 with a higher income threshold than family and Children Medicaid. **NC Health Choice** is a comprehensive **health** insurance plan that covers not only hospitalization but also outpatient care. Benefits include: sick visits; checkups; hospital care; counseling; prescriptions; dental care; eye exams and glasses; hearing exams and hearing aids; and other related services.

**Family Planning Medicaid:** This category of Medicaid provides birth prevention measures for men and women, over the age of 18, who have family income at or below 185 percent of the Federal poverty level (FPL), and who are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid.

**Work First:** Work First is North Carolina's plan to help families stay off welfare or move off welfare, become self-sufficient and move into jobs. Work First is not just a cash assistance program, rather, it is built upon the belief that all people have a responsibility to their families and community to work and provide for their children.

**Refugee Resettlement:** This program operates under the authority of the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement to help new populations maximize their potential in the United States by linking them to critical resources that assist them integrate into American society.

## ***Child Support Services Division***

The NC Child Support Services Program works to ensure that both parents are responsible for the support of their children to the best of their ability. The federal legislation mandating the Child Support Program is Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. Child support is based on the needs of the child and the parents' ability to provide support. Child Support Services (CSS) collects and distributes child support payments. A court order for child support dictates the frequency of support payments and the amount of support to be paid.

## ***Child Welfare Services Division***

The child welfare system is a group of services designed to promote the well-being of children by ensuring safety, achieving permanency, and strengthening families to care for their children successfully. They include the following:



**Child Protective Services (CPS):** CPS is responsible for receiving, screening, and investigating/assessing reports of alleged abuse/neglect/dependency.

**In Home Services:** In-home services are provided to children and families who have been reported to child protective services (CPS) for possible child abuse or neglect and who are assessed as being able to benefit from services delivered in the home.

**Foster Care Services:** Foster care is a temporary living arrangement for children whom the courts have deemed in need of protection from abuse or neglect by a caretaker. Foster Care services must be provided to any child for whom the court has ordered a DSS legal responsibility and a child is placed in a licensed foster home, relative placement, or licensed facility.

**Adoption Services:** Adoption Services connects families interested in adoption with children in need of a permanent home.

**Foster Care Licensing:** North Carolina General Statute 131 D-10.3 requires that child-caring institutions, residential child care facilities, group homes, maternity homes, child-placing agencies for adoption, child-placing agencies for foster care and foster homes be licensed by the North Carolina Division of Social Services. DSS is responsible for recruiting, training and licensing all potential foster parents.

**LINKS:** The LINKS social worker provides services and resources to all youth in foster care age 16 to 18 and to those young adults who are between the ages of 18 and 21 and are participating in a CARS (Contractual Agreement for Continuing Residential Support) agreement, as well as to young adults who aged out of foster care at age 18 and are not participating in a CARS agreement. LINKS mission is to counter act the increased risk of negative consequences once they leave care, such as dropping out of school, unplanned parenthood, untreated illness, homelessness, criminal activity, depression and suicide.

## ***Adult Services Division***

The Division of Aging and Adult Services works to promote the independence and enhance the dignity of North Carolina's older adults, persons with disabilities and their families through a community based system of opportunities, services, benefits and protections. They include the following:

**Adult Protective Services (APS):** Evaluates whether a disabled adult has been abused, neglected or exploited and is in need of protective services.

**Adult Day Care/Day Health Services:** Provides financial assistance to eligible, disabled adults to attend a licensed program in a community group setting to support their personal independence and to promote their social, physical and emotional well-being.

**Guardianship Services:** Guardianship is established when an individual is unable to manage their own affairs and is court appointed a guardian after being declared incompetent through a legal proceeding.

**Special Assistance In-Home Services (SA/IH):** The SA/IH program is designed to financially assist Medicaid and qualified medically disabled individuals. The program is intended to assist the adult with basic necessities in order for the adult to remain safely in their own home.

**Representative Payee Services:** Social Services is appointed representative payee by the Social Security Administration to assure the appropriate use of an adults income; strengthening the adult's basic money management skills and ensuring that their basic needs are met through proper use of their financial resources.

**In-Home Services (IHS):** Assists eligible, disabled adults to safely remain in their home as long as possible while maintaining their independence, quality of life, slowing the deterioration of an individual's functional capacity; preventing abuse, neglect and/or exploitation and avoiding premature institutional care.