

Item Title: Accept and Appropriate Funding from North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services for Emergency Placements

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners accepts and appropriates \$166,191 from the North Carolina Division of Social Services (DSS) Emergency Placement Fund to address identified placement needs for children in DSS custody awaiting Medicaid-level treatment placements.

Item Summary:

Purpose: In accordance with the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, the Board of Commissioners must approve all amendments that increase the budget for a fund.

Background: The adopted State budget allocated funds to the North Carolina Division of Social Services for the Emergency Placement Fund. These funds support Medicaid-level treatment placements of children in County custody. Counties may use funds to maintain crisis placements, pay short-term temporary enhanced rates to placement providers, and support other local solutions to provide appropriate placements while the youth await Medicaid-level treatment placements. Wake County's allocated amount for FY 2025 is \$166,191. Staff recommend accepting and appropriating these funds.

Strategic Plan: This action supports Community Health and Wellbeing Goal 3: By 2029, 5% more residents asked will indicate low barriers to healthcare and behavioral health services, such as access to providers, insurance coverage, affordability and appointment wait times.

Fiscal Impact: This allocation provides \$166,191 of revenues and expenditures in the Health and Human Services General Fund Budget for emergency placement services. Funds must be expended by May 31, 2025. There is no matching funds requirement.

Additional Information:

In FY 2025, counties are allocated a base amount of \$20,000 with the remainder allocated based on each county's foster care census percentage. Utilization of funds will be monitored, and counties may be contacted to ensure allocated funds are expended by May 31, 2025.

Wake County was allocated \$166,191 from the Emergency Placement Fund in FY 2025 to be used to temporarily provide essential needs for children awaiting Medicaid-level treatment placements.

This fund aims to temporarily assist county departments of social services in providing these needs to prevent children from staying in DSS offices. The fund supports maintaining crisis placements, paying enhanced rates to providers, and implementing local solutions.

Attachments:

1. County Director Letter
2. Budget Memo FY 2025 – Human Services