



NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families
DATE: September 4, 2020

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Upcoming Legislative Meetings:

Committee	Date and Time	Location, Video and Audio
2021-22 Long Session Begins	January 13, 2021, noon	

Legislative Session:

The NC General Assembly came back into session on September 2nd to quickly pass a COVID-19 Relief bill that allocates remaining federal funds. The Senate began the process by taking H1105, a bill that was centered around infrastructure and technology needs for COVID-19, and expanding it to become the [Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0](#). After this business is completed, the NCGA is not scheduled to return to Raleigh until the beginning of the 2021-2022 Long Session on January 13, 2021. At the time that this update was written, the Governor had not signed the bill into law. He has the choice to sign the bill into law, veto it, or let it become law without his signature. Some of the allocations include:

- \$38 M to LME/MCOs to provide eligible individuals direct services associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. That is broken down as such:
 - \$5,899,330 to Alliance Behavioral Healthcare
 - \$9,166,016 to Cardinal Innovations Healthcare
 - \$4,027,152 to Eastpointe.
 - \$4,375,407 to Partners Behavioral Health Management
 - \$4,631,095 to Sandhills Center
 - \$5,292,267 to Trillium Health Resources
 - \$4,608,733 to Vaya Health
- \$35 M to DHHS, Division of Child Development and Early Education, to provide operational grants to licensed childcare centers. These grants can be used for operational costs, nonrecurring staff pay increases, offsetting transportation costs, and other costs attributed to the pandemic

- \$8 M to DHHS, Division of Child Development and Early Education, to provide assistance payments to parents using remote learning opportunities. Applications will be made available on their website. Preference will be given to applicants who reside in a household with an income level not above 150% of the amount required for a child in the home to qualify for the federal free or reduced-price lunch program.
- \$20 M to DPI for internet connectivity
- \$12 M to DHHS to allocate to six food banks
- \$20 M to DHHS to be used for: food banks, COVID-19 response in child care centers, residential settings, adult and child protective services, homeless and domestic violence facilities, costs to expand NCCARE360
- \$4.35 M to assist DSS in serving children in foster care
- \$27 M to purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for schools with a caveat that states, “the Department is encouraged to use at least seventeen million dollars (\$17,000,000) for in-person services for qualifying children”
- \$6 M for PPE and sanitizing products in child care settings regulated by the State
- \$4.3 M to Child Advocacy Centers of North Carolina with 75% of that being distributed to child advocacy centers in good standing
- \$12 M to Dept of Administration, Council for Women, to be split so that \$6 M goes to domestic violence centers around the State and \$6 M to sexual assault centers around the State
- \$19.85 M YMCA of the Triangle area to expand capacity for remote learning opportunities within YMCAs across the State
- \$300,000 to the DHHS, Division of Social Services, to establish a student health collaborative pilot program. The pilot allows a LEA to collaborate with the county department of social services to assist students with their mental and physical well-being while in a public school setting in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Division of Social Services, in collaboration with the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction, will select at least one LEA to participate in the pilot program upon providing the required local match to funds allocated in this act for the collaborative pilot.

Other provisions include:

- Creates the Extra Credit Grant Program that provides automatic grants of \$335 will be given to families with at least one “qualifying child” (children in school) if they resided in North Carolina in 2019 and filed State taxes. Other families may also qualify if they have completed a form by 10/15/20.
- Flexibility to realign the Transportation Allocation for other purposes such as school nutrition, sanitizing school buses and PPE, childcare, remote learning
- Flexibility in licensing requirements for childcare facilities to allow community-based organizations to provide remote learning care for school-age children
- Reauthorizes State agency flexibility to delay fees and deadlines

Medicaid Managed Care Ruling:

NC DHHS released a [statement](#) that an Administrative Law Judge ruled that NC DHHS had acted with “integrity and fairness” in the managed care procurement process they used when choosing the Prepaid Health Plans that would manage the Standard Plans.

New Resources:

NC Medicaid Beneficiary Portal: The portal will be web-based and mobile-friendly and will provide a dedicated, digital place for Medicaid beneficiaries and those seeking benefits. NC DHHS provided two webinars this week to preview the portal and to seek feedback on the portal. Although the webinars are over, this opportunity provided us with a new contact at NC Medicaid. Michael Leighs is the new Deputy Director of Engagement for NC Medicaid.

COVID-19 Testing: NC DHHS now has a program that allows for certain individuals to qualify for Medicaid for the purposes of COVID-19 testing. To qualify, individuals must be uninsured, a resident of North Carolina, and meet the citizenship and legal immigration status requirements of the Medicaid program. NC Medicaid is required to verify citizenship and immigration status. Individuals must qualify for MCV at the time the test was obtained. The online application is now available. For more information: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/blog/2020/09/02/special-bulletin-covid-128-nc-medicaid-optional-covid-19-testing-program-online>

Webinars:

Exceptional Children’s Assistance Center is offering two upcoming webinars—
“The Virtual Individualized Education World”
September 10, 2020 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

“North Carolina School Options for Students with Disabilities”
September 16, 2020 7:00 pm – 8:30 PM

Registration for both webinars: <https://www.ecac-parentcenter.org/calendar/>

“The Value of Youth Peers Serving on Community Boards”

Speaker: Ryan Tempesco

September 29, 2020 2:00 pm

Registration: <https://www.doorstowellbeing.org/webinar-recordings>