

NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families

DATE: October 23, 2021

Can You Impact a Stalled State Budget?

The State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021-2022 began on July 1, 2021 with no budget passed by the NC General Assembly for the year. The Senate had passed their version of the budget in late June and the House passed their version in August. Reports indicate that the House and Senate have negotiated their differences and developed a compromise budget proposal. Typically, the negotiated version would go the House and Senate floors, be passed and move on to the Governor. NCGA leaders have stated that they are negotiating the legislative compromise with the Governor before it is finalized at the NC General Assembly. State government is operating on the previous fiscal year funding levels until a budget is passed and signed into law.

Perhaps the biggest setback in not having a new budget in place is that all new or increased funding that is included in the SFY2021-2022 budget hasn't been allocated and will not be until a new budget is signed into law. Here are just a few items included in the stalled budget proposal:

- Increase in direct care worker pay rates
- Increase in Innovations waiver slots
- Increase funds to school units for children with disabilities
- Extends Medicaid eligibility for parents of children in foster care

Stakeholders may believe that there isn't much to do to impact the budget at this point. Now may actually be a critical time to lend your voice to the budget debate. We asked NC Autism Society Director of Public Policy, Jennifer Mahan, messages that stakeholders could convey about the budget and which leaders it should be directed to at this point in time.

"Because we have not seen the final budget that is under negotiation and don't know which numbers they are using during negotiations, it would be worth reaching out to the Governor's office and budget leaders in the House and Senate and urge them to use the more favorable numbers in each version, including:

- Thank legislators for recognizing the need for supports and services for people with disabilities with additional waiver slots and the special education ADM fund.
- Urge them to use the HOUSE funding numbers for recurring funding to increase the wages of direct support staff across community services so the new waiver slots (and other services) have staffing.
- Urge them to use the HOUSE numbers for Innovations slots and increase the minimum number of waiver slots to 2,000.
- Urge them to keep the House provision to increase the special education funding cap to 13% and to study funding for special education in the House version of the budget.

- Urge them to keep the Senate provision on special education due process hearings.
- Continue to emphasize that people with disabilities and health care conditions need other services and supports: talk about what YOU need.

We are also hearing that the Governor is negotiating for extending Medicaid to people in the health care coverage gap: you can support that effort by asking House and Senate leaders to extend Medicaid to people without access to affordable health care.”

[The last ASNC alert with a list of budget leaders is here <https://www.autismsociety-nc.org/state-budget-update/> The Governor can be reached here <https://governor.nc.gov/contact/contact-governor-cooper>]

For a recap of the House and Senate budget versions, see the i2i August 2021 [article](#).

BH/IDD Tailored Plan Provider Trainings an Opportunity for Children, Youth and Families:

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	Register for the webinar series .
Oct. 29, 2021	Delivery of Tailored Care Management
Nov. 5, 2021	Transitional Care Management and Community Inclusion Activities
Nov. 19, 2021	Conflict-Free Care Management and Additional Care Coordination Functions for Members Enrolled in the Innovations or TBI Waiver
Dec. 3, 2021	Billing
Dec. 10, 2021	Oversight and Quality Measurement/Improvement

Update on Leandro Plan:

The judge overseeing the Leandro case has stated that he will issue an order to the State and the General Assembly within three weeks if no action is taken to fully fund the State Plan. See articles that have been written about the action:

[News & Observer](#), October 18, 2021

[Richmond Observer](#), October 19, 2021

[NC Political News](#), October 21, 2021

Resource for Families:

The NC Governor encouraged families to apply for the Child Tax Credit payments through a [press release](#). Families can see if they are eligible by going to getctc.org. A NC DHHS email provided the following to spread the word on the tax credit:

Please take as many of these steps as you can to ensure that North Carolina maximizes the benefits from this federal policy for families across the state:

- Record messages for people who contact your agency and are put on hold to share information about the Child Tax Credit (see page 27 for a sample hold

message): <https://docs.google.com/document/d/121Jli3eDzBoEsfAULf8XcXno48BuZvb9TJ4aYS0ujxU/edit>

- Post notices in all offices using the flyer and poster on the GetCTC portal with posters ([English](#) and [Spanish](#))
- Ensure all staff engaged with clients have information to ask if families have received or filed for the Advance Child Tax Credit and **see attached Child Tax Credit training slides**.
- Share on social media information and links to file for those who haven't yet via this social media tool kit (see pages 8, 12 and 17 for sample messages and images): <https://docs.google.com/document/d/121Jli3eDzBoEsfAULf8XcXno48BuZvb9TJ4aYS0ujxU/edit>
- Post more details about the Advance Child Tax Credit on your agency website and frequently visited pages by the general public: <https://www.ncjustice.org/publications/the-child-tax-credit-an-important-lifeline-for-families/>
- Include information about the Advance Child Tax Credit in mailings to households using the palm cards ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) or flyer above
- Prioritize training on the non-filer portal for staff, 6-minute overview of the portal here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGoyN_M9SfQ

States across the country are urging people to sign up at [GetCTC.org](https://www.getctc.org) as soon as possible and before Nov. 15 to guarantee advance payment arrives as soon as possible. Importantly, households will also be able to claim the expanded Child Tax Credit during the upcoming tax filing season.

Please feel free to reach out to Heba Atwa, Public Policy Advocate, heba@ncjustice.org, with the Budget & Tax Center if we can be of help in getting the word out or supporting your efforts.

Bills on the Move:

[H. 110](#), Landlord Submission of HOPE Application, House failed to concur with Senate version, a conference committee will be appointed

[S. 105](#), 2021 Appropriations Act, passed by House and Senate, Senate did not concur with House proposal, conference committee appointed.

Bills:

[H. 29](#), Verification of Immigration Status: SAVE

[H. 32](#), Equity Opportunity Act – MET CROSSOVER

[H. 42](#), 2020 COVID Relief Bill Modifications

[H. 91](#), Reduce Regulation to Help Children with Autism – MET CROSSOVER

[H. 149](#), Improving Access to Care through Telehealth – MET CROSSOVER

[H. 173](#), Separate Divisions, Juvenile Justice and Adult Corrections—AB (Agency Bill)

[H. 183](#), Juvenile Court Counselors/Sensitivity Training—AB (Agency Bill) – MET CROSSOVER

[H. 192](#), COVID Response, Supplemental Spending 2020-2021

[H. 205](#), Abuse & Neglect Resources in Public Schools – MET CROSSOVER

[H. 212](#), Social Services Reform
[H. 215](#), Early Childhood Data Analytics/Pilot/Guilford
[H. 232](#), LRC Study – Affordable Housing, MET CROSSOVER
[H. 247](#), Standards of Student Conduct – MET CROSSOVER
[H. 249](#), Children with Disabilities Funding Formula
[H. 261](#), Raise Min. Age/Juvenile Jurisdiction
[H. 262](#), Smart Start Funds
[H. 274](#), 2021 Current Operations Appropriations Act
[H. 277/S. 249](#), The SAVE Act
[H. 298](#), 2021 Current Operations Appropriations Act
[H. 300](#), 2021 Pandemic Recovery Appropriations Act
[H. 305](#), 2021 Omnibus Coronavirus Relief Act
[H. 313](#), 2021 Pandemic Recovery Appropriations Act
[H. 314](#), 2021 Omnibus Coronavirus Relief Act
[H. 325](#), 2021 Omnibus Coronavirus Relief Act
[H. 382](#), Hospital ED Care/Medicaid Behavioral Health Service
[H. 389/S. 350](#), NC Innovations Waiver Act of 2021
[H. 424](#), Juveniles/Eliminate LWOP/Parole Eligibility
[H. 430](#), Advisory Council on PANS & PANDAS
[H. 470](#), Medicaid Expansion
[H. 516](#), Raise Dropout Age to 18
[H. 568/S. 721](#), Youth Mentoring Services Act
[H. 579](#), School Self-Defense Act
[H. 615](#), Juvenile Court Mental Health Assessments – MET CROSSOVER
[H. 621](#), Increase Drop Out Age/Completion Indicator – MET CROSSOVER
[H. 653](#), Mental Health and SUD Parity Report
[H. 657](#), School Safety/Threat Assessment Teams – MET CROSSOVER
[H. 658](#), Deploy Child Welfare & Aging Component/NCFAST
[H. 664](#), County Service Districts/Early Childhood Education – MET CROSSOVER
[H. 665/S. 610](#), Address Direct Support Staffing Crisis/Medicaid
[H. 732](#), Peer Support Specialist Certification Act
[H. 747](#), Merge NC Health Choice & Medicaid
[H. 749](#), Healthy Students – School Psychologists/COVID-19
[H. 809](#), NC Healthy Family Act
[H. 823](#), Child Advocacy Centers/Share Information – MET CROSSOVER
[H. 837](#), Increase Student Access to School Counselors
[H. 882](#), Behavioral Health Services for Students
[H. 908](#), Access to Affordable Health Care Coverage for All
[H. 914](#), Support our Direct Care Workforce
[H. 928](#), Opioid Overdose Prev. Pilot Program/Funds
[H. 934](#), Student Success Program
[H. 946](#), Sound Basic Education for Every Child
[H. 947](#), The GREAT Broadband Expansion Act
[H. 952](#), Mental Health Unit Triage Pilot Program
[H. 953](#), Funds for School Mental Health Support Persons
[S. 37](#), In-Person Learning Choice for Families, ratified, vetoed by Governor on 2/26
[S. 61](#), Dental Services/Medicaid Transformation

[S. 78](#), A Safe Return for In-Person Learning
[S. 86](#), Medicaid Recs/School-Based Health and InCK evaluation/ Child Well-Being Transformation Council Rec
[S. 88](#), NC FAST Child Welfare Case Mgmt./PED Study
[S. 89](#), Regional Supervision/Child Well-Being Transformation Council Rec
[S. 90](#), Social Services Reform/Inter-County Collaboration/Child Well-Being Transformation Council Rec
[S. 93](#), Assisting NC Families in Crisis
[S. 106](#), 2021 Appropriations Act
[S. 107](#), 2021 Appropriations Act
[S. 154](#), Fully Funded School Social Works and Psychologists
[S. 350/H. 389](#), NC Innovations Waiver Act of 2021
[S. 402](#), Close the Medicaid Coverage Gap
[S. 463](#), Deploy Child Welfare & Aging Component/NCFAST
[S. 501](#), Create Department of Adult Corrections
[S. 514](#), Youth Health Protection Act
[S. 515](#), Health Care Heroes Conscience Protection Act
[S. 518](#), Protecting and Supporting NC's Children
[S. 530](#), Medicaid for Twelve Months Postpartum
[S. 593](#), Special Education Due Process Hearings – MET CROSSOVER
[S. 595](#), Taskforce on Adverse Childhood Experiences
[S. 610/ H. 665](#), Address Direct Support Staffing Crisis/Medicaid
[S. 615](#), Direct Care Worker Wage Passthrough/Medicaid
[S. 622](#), 2021 Governor's Budget
[S. 721/H. 568](#), Youth Mentoring Services Act

Bills Signed into Law:

[SL 2021-1](#): COVID Relief Bill Modifications
[SL 2021-3](#): 2021 COVID-19 Response and Relief
[SL 2021-4](#): The Reopen the Schools Act of 2021
[SL 2021-7](#), Summer Learning Choice for NC Families
[SL 2021-8](#): Excellent Public Schools Act of 2021
[SL 2021-18](#): Modify Termination of Parental Rights Appeals
[SL 2021-22](#): Reduce Regulation to Help Children with Autism
[SL 2021-25](#): Additional COVID-119 Response and Relief
[SL 2021-61](#): Medicaid Modernized Hospital Assessments
[SL 2021-62](#): Medicaid Administrative Changes and Technical Corrections
[SL 2021-77](#): DHHS Revisions
[SL 2021-88](#): GSC Technical Corrections 2021
[SL 2021-100](#): Juvenile Code Rev's/CIP Recommendations—AB (Agency Bill)
[SL 2021-118](#): Expand Expunction Eligibility
[SL 2021-123](#): Various Raise the Age Changes/JJAC Recs.
[SL 2021-132](#): Expedite Child Safety and Permanency
[SL 2021-144](#): Foster Parents' Bill of Rights