

Durham County Department of Social Services
Director's Report for the Board of Social Services

Date: August 2026

Prepared by: Maggie Clapp

Section: Administration

Highlighted Updates

Federal/State Highlights:

- **DCDL-CWS-60-2026 ONE-TIME INCREASED CHAFEE (LINKS) FUNDS-** [DCDL CWS 60 2026](#) For SFY 2026-2027, North Carolina Department of Social Services (NCDSS) has been granted additional Chafee funds available to support eligible LINKS youth and young adults.

- **State Funding of the Additional 25% FNS Administrative Cost**

Federal legislation under H.R. 1 (July 2025) reduced the federal share of SNAP/Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) administrative funding from 50% to 25%, shifting the remaining cost burden to states and counties beginning on October 1, 2026.

In North Carolina, FNS is locally administered under the supervision of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

County Impact

- The added 25% administrative burden represents an estimated \$69 million impact to counties.
- Larger counties face substantial dollar increases due to larger administrative burden and caseloads.
- Rural counties face disproportionate hardship due to limited tax bases.
- Without state funding, counties may possibly have to reduce staffing or reallocate local funds.

Local Highlights/Challenges/Concerns:

Director Clapp on August 10th, 2026, requested 9 additional Medicaid positions from the Durham County Board of County Commissioners due to the State funding we will receive yearly for ten years, Durham will be receiving an estimated 830,000.00 dollars a year to help support the impact of H.R.1 requirement for recertification every six months for clients receiving Medicaid Expansion starting at the end of the year. The Durham County BOCC approved the 9 positions, one will be a supervisor.

Director hosted CANMEC call August 4th, 2026

Director attended the SSI Institute in Hickory, NC August 5th- August 7th, 2026.

Director hosted two Let's Chat all staff meetings, an opportunity for staff to ask the Director questions via a survey before or during the meeting on August 11th and August 12th, 2026.

Director and team met with BEAM an AI company to assist social worker with note taking in the field. BEAM is out of England, piloted last year in Fairfax County, VA and will pilot next month in Catawba. Commissioner Alam introduced us and we are starting pilot in Durham.

Director hosted meeting with Benefits Group on SNAP and Medicaid with Lincoln Community Health, Public Health and Duke on August 20th, 2026

Concerns:

Statewide FNS Error Rate

Medicaid Non-Citizen Report

PATH NC for Permanency Planning