

**Assistant Director's Report**

**Division of Family Economic Independence**

**09/08/2026**

**FEI APPLICATIONS:**

**Total Applications Taken by Program:**

| Food & Nutrition Services | Work First Cash Assistance | Refugee Cash Assistance | Total Applications Taken |  | Food and Nutrition Services | Work First Cash Assistance | Refugee Cash Assistance | Total Applications Pending |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2,245                     | 133                        | 0                       | 2,378                    |  | 635                         | 66                         | 0                       | 701                        |

**Total Applications Pending:**

**Total Applications Disposed by Program:**

| Food & Nutrition Services | Work First Cash Assistance | Refugee Cash Assistance | Total Applications Disposed |  | Food and Nutrition Services | Work First Cash Assistance | Refugee Cash Assistance | Total Applications Approved |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2,142                     | 156                        | 0                       | 2,298                       |  | 1,062                       | 18                         | 0                       | 1,080                       |

**Total Applications Approved by Program:**

**Total Applications Withdrawn:**

| Food & Nutrition Services | Work First Cash Assistance | Refugee Cash Assistance | Total Applications Withdrawn |  | Food and Nutrition Services | Work First Cash Assistance | Refugee Cash Assistance | Total Applications Denied |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 153                       | 94                         | 0                       | 247                          |  | 927                         | 44                         | 0                       | 971                       |

**Total Applications Denied by Program:**

\*Data Source: Data Warehouse/NC Fast

| Durham's FNS Applications Timeliness: | Durham's WFFA Applications Timeliness: |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Regular Timeliness = 96.74%           | 93.55%                                 |
| Expedite Timeliness = 95.16%          |                                        |
|                                       |                                        |

## **CHILDCARE SERVICES**

As of September 8, 2026, there are no families remaining on the Childcare Subsidy Waitlist.

### **Childcare Subsidy Waitlist Priority Groups are:**

1. Child Protective Services (CPS)
2. Child Welfare Services (CWS)
3. Children in DSS custody (Foster Care). The foster parent or custodial parent is employed or in school.
4. Families in Work First who have a current Mutual Responsibility Agreement (MRA) and receive active services.
5. Teen Parents
6. Siblings (including newborns) with families who are already receiving services.
7. Provide Childcare for 25% of the maximum allowed 64 children identified by Durham Early Head Start as enrollees of the Early Head Start –CCP Grant Award, ages 0 to 4 transition out of EHS program, also eligible for DSS Childcare Subsidy.
8. Children with special needs and families experiencing homelessness. (4% Vulnerable Populations Set-Aside)

# of Children enrolled in Early Head Start (EHS) Grant Award Recipients August 2026: 22

# of children enrolled in Head Start (HS) and North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten program (NC PreK) added to DSS wait list August 2026: 0

Attrition. Calculated by adding the new vouchers issued and subtracting the number of children terminated August 2026: Added: 73 Terminated: 69 Total FY 2026-2027

Title IV-E children (Foster Care Placements) receiving Childcare Subsidy August 2026: 45 children (Total Children Served)

Homeless/Shelter Children served as of August 2026: 32 Children/18 Families

Durham County Childcare Subsidy Final Spending Coefficient July Service Month/August Payment Month 2026: 77.05 % (*State Final Spending Coefficient July Service Month/August Payment Month 74.76%*)

Number of County Transfers to Durham County in August 2026: Added-5 Families 11 Families YTD 2026-2027

### **Program Updates:**

- Currently accepting applications.
- **Staffing:** There is one Child Care vacancy, and one candidate has accepted a position. The delayed start date is due to completion of the required background checks. There is also one More Than a Job NC vacancy and one Work First Employment Social Worker vacancy. Both positions have been reclassified and are awaiting exemption approval.
- **Child Care Subsidy Funding:** On August 26, 2026, we received notification of increased Child Care Subsidy funding. The 2026 Budget Technical Corrections Bill increased CCDF funding for Child Care Services by \$60 million, from approximately \$381.1 million to \$444.1 million. The additional funding was distributed to

counties through the Child Care Subsidy allocation formula. Durham County received an additional \$32,454.37 for FY 2026-2027. While this increase provides additional resources, it also impacts our spending percentage because of the increased allocation.

- **Program Initiatives:** Both Child Care and Work First have several initiatives underway to improve efficiency, timeliness, accountability, and service delivery.
  1. **Project 95 (Child Care Subsidy):** Child Care has launched Project 95, with a focus on every family and every dollar. Staff have been assigned to one of two teams on individual strengths, experience, and processing efficiency. These assignments are assigned to improve processing timeliness, reduce backlogs, maximize available resources, and ensure families receive uninterrupted Child Care Subsidy services.
  2. **Work First 5-10-20-30 Project:** Work First has implemented the 5-10-20-30 Project to promote a more proactive approach to case management and application processing. The project establishes checkpoints throughout the application and case-management process to ensure staff are monitoring pending work, addressing barriers early, providing timely guidance to families, and preventing cases from reaching the 30-day deadline without appropriate action. The goal is to move from a reactive process to a proactive one while strengthening accountability, timeliness, and overall program performance.

### **FEI RECERTIFICATIONS:**

| Participants Summary – August 2026       |               |               |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Program                                  | Cases         | Participants  |
| Food and Nutrition Services              | 14,921        | 29,105        |
| Work First – Child Only and Refugee Cash | 70            | 99            |
| Work First Benefit                       | 22            | 54            |
| Benefit Diversion                        | 6             | 16            |
| <b>Total:</b>                            | <b>15,019</b> | <b>29,274</b> |

*\*Data Source: Data Warehouse / NC Fast*

| Recertifications – August 2026           |                      |                            |               |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Program                                  | Recertifications Due | Recertifications Completed | Timeliness %  |
| Food Nutrition Services                  | 1,997                | 1,436                      | 96.66%        |
| Work First – Child Only and Refugee Cash | 5                    | 3                          | 60.00%        |
| <b>Total:</b>                            | <b>2,002</b>         | <b>1,439</b>               | <b>78.33%</b> |

*\*Data Source: Data Warehouse / NC Fast*

### **Human Service Technician (HST) Unit Summary for August 2026**

Effective February 2026 the 4 HSTs are working collectively to support the Food and Nutrition Services Applications and Recertifications Teams.

- 4 HSTs submitted 353 FNS paper applications, scanned, uploaded, and routed 762 emails received via the [FNSverifications@dconc.gov](mailto:FNSverifications@dconc.gov) email box.