



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Child Development and Early
Education

JOSH STEIN • Governor
DEVPUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary
CANDACE WITHERSPOON • Director

June 9, 2026

Dear County Director of Social Services and Local Purchasing Agencies

Letter Number: SCCA DCDL 2026 - #05

Attention: Directors of County Departments of Social Services
Directors of Other Local Purchasing Agencies
Child Care Coordinators
Other DSS Personnel who work with the Subsidized Child Care Assistance Program

Subject: Continuation of the Collaborative Approach for Proposed Policy Changes

The purpose of this Dear County Director Letter is to provide information on the continuation of the collaborative approach process.

A Shared Effort

This process will enable us to collectively ensure that policies are clear, practical, and effective for those we serve. Your insights and expertise are invaluable in shaping policies that truly meet the needs of our communities. By working together, we can create an inclusive and collaborative process that enhances our ability to provide high-quality child care services. The collaborative approach process will continue with a few changes.

How the Process Will Work

These meetings will now occur semi-annually and will focus on proposed policy changes. For each session, held 2026-2028, groups of 25 selected DSS/LPA's will be notified at a time to participate in the Collaborative Approach Meeting. All 100 counties will receive an invitation to participate before the end of the 2-year cycle. Participants are asked to review the red text items in the revised policy, ahead of the meeting. Additional details about the process are forthcoming.

Meeting Details

Electronic calendar invitations will be sent to the county contact(s), at least 10 business days prior to the scheduled meeting date. Meeting procedures and protocols will be attached to the meeting invite for your review. Please familiarize yourself with these guidelines to ensure a productive and respectful discussion. We look forward to your participation and thoughtful contributions to this important effort. Thank you for your continued dedication to supporting children and families in our communities.

If you have questions about the information in this letter or inquiries related to the Subsidized Child Care Assistance Program, please request a consultation with your Subsidy Technical Assistance Consultant.

Sincerely,

Candace Witherspoon

Attachment

CW/LD

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY EDUCATION

LOCATION: 1915 Health Services Way • Raleigh, NC 27607
MAILING ADDRESS: 2201 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-2200
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-814-6300 • Fax: 984-236-8222

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER