

## LINKS Vehicle Resource Guide

LINKS Transitional Funds up to \$1,500.00 are available to assist eligible youth and young adults ages 14 to 21 to match the young person's personal savings toward the purchase of a vehicle.

### Guidance, Considerations, and Tools

Counties should consider the following when they are planning to assist a young person with the purchase of a vehicle.

1. Engaging the young person in a readiness assessment to facilitate conversation about the young person's preparedness to assume the responsibilities of driving and owning a vehicle.
2. A young person should need the vehicle for employment, school, family responsibilities, or other transition-related necessities.
3. The young person should receive instruction on the routine maintenance of the vehicle prior to purchase and demonstrate to a knowledgeable adult that they understand the basics of vehicle maintenance. Such instruction should include information that pertains to the frequency of checking vehicle fluids, schedule of routine maintenance, instrument gauges and what they mean, checking tire pressure, watching for tire wear and changing a tire.
4. The price of the vehicle should be compatible with Blue Book or other national rating systems and certified by an independent mechanic to be in good mechanical condition.
5. The young person should have income beyond their basic needs for food and shelter to pay the balance of vehicle payments, gas, maintenance, and repairs.
6. The young adult should not have a recent (within six months) history of drug or alcohol abuse.
7. The young adult must have a valid driver's license.

The following tools may be used to assess readiness of the young person to drive and/or own a vehicle:

- Youth and Young Adult Driving Readiness Assessment (DSS-5090a)
- Youth and Young Adult Vehicle Ownership Readiness Assessment (DSS-5090b)

## Relevant State Statutes

N.C.G.S. 20-11(i)(4) states that an application for a permit or license authorized by this section must be signed by both the applicant and another person. With respect to minors in the legal custody of the county department of social services, any of the following:

- a. A guardian ad litem or attorney advocate appointed to advocate for the minor under G.S. 7B-601.
- b. The director of the county department of social services or the director's designee.
- c. If no person listed in sub-division a. or b. of this subdivision is available, the court with continuing jurisdiction over the minor's placement under G.S. 7B-1000(b).

N.C.G.S. 48A-4 states that a minor who is 16 years of age or older and who is in the legal custody of the county department of social services shall be qualified and competent to contract for the purchase of an automobile insurance policy with the consent of the court with continuing jurisdiction over the minor's placement under G.S. 7B-1000(b). The minor shall be responsible for paying the costs of the insurance premiums and shall be liable for damages caused by the minor's negligent operation of a motor vehicle. No state or local government agency, foster parent, or entity providing services to the minor under contract or at the discretion of a State or local government shall be responsible for paying insurance premiums or liable for damages of any kind as a result of the operation of a motor vehicle by the minor.