



November 7, 2024

**Dear County Director of Social Services and Local Purchasing Agencies**

**Letter Number:** SCCA DCDL 2024 - #11

**Attention:** Directors of County Departments of Social Services  
Directors of Other Local Purchasing Agencies  
Child Care Coordinators  
Other DSS Personnel

**Subject:** Disaster Unemployment Assistance

The Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) is providing the following guidance regarding Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) payments for the Subsidized Child Care Assistance (SCCA) Program.

Governor Cooper has issued Executive Order No. 322, which increases weekly unemployment benefits from \$350 to \$600. DUA is a federal program offering temporary financial assistance to individuals who are unable to work due to a disaster. The hurricane impacted North Carolina on September 26, 2024, and DUA benefits became available the week of September 29<sup>th</sup>. One of the following criteria must be met to be eligible for benefits:

- Loss of primary source of income
- Inability to access the workplace
- Injury resulting from the disaster
- Delayed employment or self-employment start due to the disaster
- Becoming the primary household income provider due to a disaster-related death

The affected counties include: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Forsyth, Gaston, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, Jackson, Lee, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Nash, Polk, Rowan, Rutherford, Stanly, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Union, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, and Yancey.

When determining eligibility for the Subsidized Child Care Assistance (SCCA) Program, affected counties should consider DUA payments non-countable from income calculations. However, regular unemployment compensation remains countable for SCCA eligibility and income assessments. No changes will be made to the NC FAST system for this purpose. Child Care workers will need to review the disbursement history in OVS and determine if payment was made prior to hurricane Helene and deduct the DUA payment from the regular unemployment compensation.

If payment was made post hurricane Helene, the payment is non-countable. Child Care workers can view the disbursement history by selecting the Online Data Tab and selecting OVS report. Although this process is not ideal, this is where we are. As changes arise and further guidance is provided, DCDEE will keep you informed.

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

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If you have any questions regarding this guidance, please reach out to your Technical Assistance Consultant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Candace Witherspoon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Candace Witherspoon  
CW/DL