



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

**ROY COOPER** • Governor  
**KODY H. KINSLEY** • Secretary  
**CANDACE WITHERSPOON** • Acting Director

December 20, 2024

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

**Letter Number:** SCCA DCDL 2024 - #15

**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:** Recertification Extension

The Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) recognizes the hardship that families continue to face following Hurricane Helene. In response, the Division is extending the certification periods by 12 months for families in the affected counties.

This extension applies to certification periods ending in January, February, and March 2025. For example, a case due for recertification in January 2025 will automatically be extended through January 2026 in the NC FAST system. If a child is in Graduated Phase Out that expires in January, February or March 2025, the Graduated Phase Out will NOT be extended and the child's eligibility will end when the Graduated Phase Out was originally set to expire.

The affected counties include Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yancey.

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

Sincerely,

Candace Witherspoon

CW/RS

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

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