

CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL

DATE: November 9, 2009

MANUAL: Family Services Manual, Volume I; Children's Services, Chapter VIII:
Child Welfare Funding Manual

CHANGE NO: 08-2009

TO: COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS
CHILD WELFARE SOCIAL WORKERS

RE: REVISION OF CHAPTER XIII, SECTION 1600 ADOPTION ASSISTANCE,
CHILD WELFARE FUNDING MANUAL

EFFECTIVE: IMMEDIATELY

I. BACKGROUND

As a result of the new federal legislation Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law (P.L.) 110-351), adoption assistance policy has been revised to reflect the new legislation and to correct and clarify issues in previous policy.

These revisions to the manuals are being sent to you via e-mail and will only be posted on-line.

II. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

The changes in eligibility requirements brought about by the Fostering Connections law is to be phased in over the next nine years. During those nine years there will be two distinctly different sets of eligibility requirements, one for those children for whom the Fostering Connections law applies (the **applicable child**), and one for those children for whom the Fostering Connections law does not apply (the **non-applicable child**).

The determination of which category the child falls under will depend on the child's age reached during the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) that the adoption is finalized, with children reaching age sixteen or above in FFY 2010 being applicable and then each FFY the eligible age decreases by two years until every child is applicable in FFY 2018. In addition, any child who has been in foster care for sixty consecutive months is applicable and any child who is a sibling of a child who is an applicable child and placed in the same adoptive arrangement will also be applicable.

The applicable child's eligibility will no longer be based on a connection to the 1996 AFDC rules. There is however a new requirement for the child to be in the care of a public or licensed private child placement agency or Indian tribal organization at the time of the initiation of the adoption proceedings in order to be eligible for IV-E adoption assistance. There are also new special needs criteria for the applicable child.

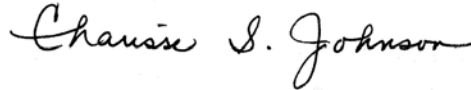
The non-applicable child must continue to meet the requirements of the 1996 AFDC rules. There are also new special needs criteria for the non-applicable child. There is no longer a requirement for the non-applicable child to have been in the placement and care of a DSS agency, though there is a requirement for a Contrary to the Welfare finding to have been made when the child was removed. There is no requirement for a reasonable efforts finding.

III. INSTRUCTIONS

Should you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact your Children's Program Representative or Thomas Smith at thomas.smith@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-334-1089..

Obsolete:	Insert:
Remove old Section 1600 of Manual	Insert new Section 1600 of Manual

Sincerely,



Charisse Johnson, Chief
Child Welfare Services

Attachments:

[Chapter XIII, Section 1600 Adoption Assistance, Child Welfare Funding Manual](#)

cc: Sherry Bradsher
Jack Rogers
Hank Bowers
Sarah Barham
Family Support and Child Welfare Team Leaders
Children's Programs Representatives
Local Business Liaisons