CHEROKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
4800 West U.S. Highway 64, Murphy, NC 28906
828-837-7455

Cherokee County Department of Social Services
Board Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2025

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Cherokee County Department of Social Services was duly held on September 16, 2025, at 5:02 P.M, at 4800 West Highway 64, Murphy, N.C. 28906.

Board Members Present:
Bo Phillips, Chair
Dr. Catherine Yost, Member
James Jallah, Member
Pat Ivie, Member
Staff present:
Amanda T. McGee, DSS Director
Brandy Clonts, Administrative Officer/Clerk to the Board

II. Discussion and Adoption of Agenda

•**Motion to remove retention data from Management Reports and Adopt Agenda:** Mr. James Jallah made a motion to add the item and adopt the agenda. Mrs. Pat Ivie seconded. All voted in favor.

III. Meeting Minutes

•**Motion to Approve Minutes:** Dr. Cathrine Yost made a motion to approve the July 15, 2025 meeting minutes. Mr. James Jallah seconded. All voted in favor.

IV. Public Comments

Bo Phillips, Chair, shared that he recently had the opportunity to be part of an adoption involving a child from his church, where he serves as pastor. He expressed his gratitude to DSS, especially to Cathrine, Adoption Social Worker, noting that it was a phenomenal experience.

V. Old Business

A. Safety Threat Analysis / Staff Safety – Discussion with County

- **Training:** De-escalation training will be provided through a new vendor. Staff are also encouraged to utilize the EAN benefit available through county benefits.

- The county recently conducted a full-scale emergency shelter exercise that included participation from DSS, Fire Departments, EMS, the Health Department, and Emergency Management. Brandy Clonts, Administrative Officer, served as the point person for Cherokee County. The exercise was successful, and participants learned valuable information from one another, resulting in a clearer understanding of how to respond in a true emergency shelter situation. Director Amanda McGee plans to establish a "Boots on the Ground" DSS Team that will serve as the initial responders when a shelter needs to be opened. Secondary "shift" teams will be established.
- **Facility Changes:** The file room will be converted into a conference /training room, which will enhance DSS overall safety as it includes a direct entrance from outside the building and locked doors to the main building. The front office area is planned to be reinforced with bulletproof glass and additional wall reinforcement around the desk area; this will be added to the next fiscal year's budget.
- **Security Upgrades:** A camera and intercom system have been installed to improve overall safety. The agency will also continue working closely with the Sheriff's Department for available trainings.
- **Weapons Policy Discussion:**
  During the discussion, members expressed concern about firearm safety within the agency. It was suggested that employees who bring weapons into the DSS building either use a provided lock box or submit a plan outlining how their weapon will be safely secured, emphasizing the risk of a child accessing a firearm. Members also expressed concern about the presence of weapons during Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings. The Director will seek county guidance on acceptable firearm storage practices. Additionally, it was recommended that visiting citizens be offered safety lock boxes while on site and provided with free gun locks to take with them. These recommendations are intended to promote child safety, recognizing that firearms are the leading cause of child deaths in the United States. Finally, the client check-in process will include a statement offering visitors the option to secure their weapons and obtain a free gun lock.

B. Digitalization Initiative

- Files have been wrapped and transported to Patterson Pope to begin the process of digitalization.
- Brandy Clonts, Administrative Officer, has received all necessary permissions from the state to dispose of original records that have been duplicated electronically within their retention period.
- The state will digitalize and store all adoption records and board minutes, with fees limited to the cost of the microfilm.

VI. Management Reports

A. DHHS MOU Data July/August 2025

- Data was provided to all board members. All units are currently meeting their performance measures.
- Amanda requested management reports from all present supervisors.
    - Tracy Jones, Child Welfare Program Manager, reported that the IV-E Audit had no audit findings. She also noted that a second Quality Assurance Specialist has been hired to support Permanency Planning and Foster Care.
    - Katrina Plemmons, Food and Nutrition Supervisor, stated that there have been no updates from the state regarding the "Big Beautiful Bill." She will attend an on-site training next month in Buncombe County and reported that her unit is fully staffed. Director Amanda McGee requested that weekly meetings with staff be held moving forward.
    - Michele Chastain, Family and Children's Medicaid Supervisor, shared that the Medicaid budget structure to determine eligibility has changed. Previously, all family members were placed under the same case, but now individuals aged 20 or older must be separated and their income reviewed independently.
    - Mendy Lance, Adult Medicaid Supervisor, stated that the 2026 Medicare Managed Care Plan should significantly reduce transportation cases once implemented. She also noted that the REDA Audit will begin in January 2026 and will test every county in the state. This is a federal audit conducted every three years after North Carolina's previous audit failure. Cherokee County has historically performed very well, and she expects that to continue. However, upcoming changes could double the workload while providing less funding, and the future of Medicaid expansion remains uncertain.

B. Cherokee County Court Improvement – Continuance Report

- A report was provided by Andria Duncan, DSS Attorney, who noted:
- Court delays occurred due to scheduling conflicts and unavoidable staff absences. One continuance involved an attorney with overlapping court obligations in another county, while others occurred when social workers needed to accompany children for medical procedures. Broader challenges stem from having seven counties served by only six judges, creating administrative delays that hinder child welfare staff's ability to effectively advocate for and protect children. Director McGee stated that the issue of continuances will continue to be addressed with court partners. The goal is to ensure timeliness of adjudications, and all permanency hearings. The federal benchmark for permanency is 12-month months for reunification.

C. DSS Service Report

- The DSS Service Report was provided and reviewed.

D. Staff/Unit Accomplishments

- **Dr. Catherine Yost**, Board Member, was recognized by the Rotary Club for her accomplishments and volunteer service hours.
- **Jeremy Lance**, APS Social Worker, was recognized by VAYA Health for being "extremely helpful and supportive" to a shared member.
- **Stephanie Mull Thomas**, CPS Social Worker, received a letter commending her for outstanding work and for assisting with Triple P Parenting Classes and behavioral guidance, which had a truly positive impact on a family.
- **Child Support Team members Jessica Watkins and Paul Biecker** received three awards at the 2025 North Carolina Child Support Conference:
  - Most Improved Overall in Incentive Performance – Gold Medal
  - Outstanding Achievement in Overall Collections, Incentives, and Self-Assessed Performance Measures
  - 2025 North Carolina Team of the Year
- On September 15, 2025, the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners recognized the **Child Support Team** during their monthly meeting by presenting a Resolution in Recognition of the Cherokee County DSS Child Support Team. Their recognition is also featured prominently on the Official Cherokee County Website.

VII. New Business

A. HRI – Medicaid / FNS Future Changes – Potential Work Force Impacts

- Discussion was held regarding upcoming federal and state-level proposals that could impact Medicaid and FNS programs. The proposed increase in work requirements may lead to higher caseloads and workloads for staff.
- There was also discussion about the potential effects of a federal government shutdown. In such an event, federal payments to North Carolina could be paused, and the state would need to temporarily fund operations until reimbursement is received.

VIII. Adjourn

- **Motion to Adjourn:** Dr. Catherine Yost made a motion to adjourn. Mr. James Jallah seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 PM.

North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Josh Stein, Governor
Pamela Brewington Cashwell, Secretary

Division of Archives and Records
Government Records Section

5 September 2025

Brandy Clonts
Cherokee County Department of Social Services
4800 West US Hwy 64
Murphy, NC 28906

Dear Brandy Clonts:

Thank you for your *Request for Disposal of Original Records Duplicated by Electronic Means* form dated 2 September 2025. We find that this document has been properly executed. The original form is included with this letter, and an additional copy remains on file in our office.

When your office is ready to add new types of records (records series) to your scanning work, please complete a new *Request for Disposal of Original Records Duplicated by Electronic Means* form and send it to us.

Thank you for your office's commitment to the proper management of the records of Cherokee County.

Sincerely,

Mark Holland

Supervisor, Records Analysis Unit

NC DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

GOVERNMENT RECORDS SECTION
STATE RECORDS CENTER

archives.ncdcr.gov 4615 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4165 919-814-6900

Request for Disposal of Original Records Duplicated by Electronic Means

If you have questions, call (919) 814-6900 and ask for a Records Management Analyst.

This form is used to request approval from the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to dispose of non-permanent paper records that have been scanned, entered into databases, or otherwise duplicated through digital imaging or other conversion to a digital environment. This form does not apply to records that have been microfilmed or photocopied or to records with a permanent retention.

Agency Contact Name: Cherokee County Department of Social Services	**Date (MM-DD-YYYY):** 09/02/2025
Phone (area code): 828-837-7455	**E-mail:** brandy.clonts@cherokeecounty-nc.gov
County/Municipality: Cherokee	**Office:** Cherokee County Department of Social Services
Mailing address: 4800 West U.S. Hwy 64, Murphy, NC 28906	

Records Series Title A group of records as listed in records retention schedule	Description of Records Specific records as referred to in-office	Inclusive Dates (1987-1989; 2005-present)	Approx. Volume of Records (e.g. "1 file cabinet," "5 boxes")	Retention Period As listed in records retention schedule
Foster Home and Facility Licensure Records	Foster Care Licensing	1970 - Present	6 shelves	Fiscal Year when notified DHHS
Child Protective Services Case Records	Child Protective Services	1970 - Present	13 shelving units	Fiscal Year
Financial Journals and Ledgers	Finance	1970 - Present	11 boxes	3 years

Requested by: Brandy Clonts Administrative Officer 9/2/2025
Signature Title Date

Approved by: [signature] Director 09/03/2025
Signature Requestor's Supervisor Date

Concurred by: [signature] Mark Holland 9/5/2025
Signature Assistant Records Administrator, State Archives of North Carolina Date

Energy Programs – Measured Monthly

1. The county will process 95% of Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) applications, with no heat or cooling source, or applications with a health-related crisis with a disconnect, final, or past due notice within one (1) business day from the date of application or date all verification is received, whichever comes first.

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July	100.00%	October		January		April	
August	100.00%	November		February		May	
September		December		March		June	
QTR Average	100.00%	QTR Average	#DIV/0!	QTR Average	#DIV/0!	QTR Average	#DIV/0!
						Annual Average	#DIV/0!

2. The county will process 95% of Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) applications, that have heat or cooling source with a past due or final notice, within two (2) business days from the date of application or date all verification is received, whichever comes first

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July	100.00%	October		January		April	
August	100.00%	November		February		May	
September		December		March		June	
QTR Average	100.00%	QTR Average	#DIV/0!	QTR Average	#DIV/0!	QTR Average	#DIV/0!
						Annual Average	#DIV/0!

Work First

1. The county will process 95% of Work First applications within 45 days of receipt.

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July	100.00%	October		January		April	
August	100.00%	November		February		May	
September		December		March		June	
QTR Average	100.00%	QTR Average	#DIV/0!	QTR Average	#DIV/0!	QTR Average	#DIV/0!
						Annual Average	#DIV/0!

NOTE: The quarterly average will be inaccurate if the data from all three months within that quarter are not recorded.

Food and Nutrition

1. The county will process 95% of expedited FNS applications within the timeframe that allows the household to have access to the FNS benefits on or before the 7th calendar day from the date of application.

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July	100.00%	October		January		April	
August	98.00%	November		February		May	
September		December		March		June	
QTR Average	**99.00%**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**
						Annual Average	#DIV/0!

2. The county will process 95% of regular FNS applications within the timeframe that allows the household to have access to the FNS benefits on or before the 30th calendar day from the date of application.

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July	100.00%	October		January		April	
August	100.00%	November		February		May	
September		December		March		June	
QTR Average	**100.00%**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**
						Annual Average	**#DIV/0!**

3. The county will ensure that 95% of FNS recertifications are processed on time, each month

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July	99.50%	October		January		April	
August	99.43%	November		February		May	
September		December		March		June	
QTR Average	**99.47%**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**
						Annual Average	**#DIV/0!**

NOTE: The quarterly average will be inaccurate if the data from all three months within that quarter are not recorded.

Child Welfare

1. The county will ensure that 95% of all foster youth have a face-to-face visit with the social worker each month.

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July	100.00%	October		January		April	
August	100.00%	November		February		May	
September		December		March		June	
QTR Average	**100.00%**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**

*July and August low percentages are due to two youth on runaway status

Annual Average #DIV/0!

2. The county will screen 95% of all reports within required timeframes.

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July	0.00%	October	0.00%	January	0.00%	April	0.00%
August	0.00%	November	0.00%	February	0.00%	May	0.00%
September	0.00%	December	0.00%	March	0.00%	June	0.00%
QTR Average	**0.00%**	**QTR Average**	**0.00%**	**QTR Average**	**0.00%**	**QTR Average**	**0.00%**

Annual Average 0.00%

3. For children who were victims of maltreatment during a 12-month period, no more than 9.1 receive a subsequent finding of maltreatment.

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July	0.00%	October	0.00%	January	0.00%	April	0.00%
August	0.00%	November	0.00%	February	0.00%	May	0.00%
September	0.00%	December	0.00%	March	0.00%	June	0.00%
QTR Average	**0.00%**	**QTR Average**	**0.00%**	**QTR Average**	**0.00%**	**QTR Average**	**0.00%**

Annual Average 0.00%

4. The county will provide leadership for ensuring 40.5% of children who enter foster care in a 12 month period are discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering foster care.

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July	0.00%	October	0.00%	January	0.00%	April	0.00%
August	0.00%	November	0.00%	February	0.00%	May	0.00%
September	0.00%	December	0.00%	March	0.00%	June	0.00%
QTR Average	**0.00%**	**QTR Average**	**0.00%**	**QTR Average**	**0.00%**	**QTR Average**	**0.00%**

Annual Average 0.00%

5. The county will provide leadership to ensure that of children who enter foster care in a 12 – month period and who were discharged to reunification, kinship care, guardianship, or adoption, that no more than 8.3% re-enter foster care within 12 months of their discharge.

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		
July	0.00%	October	0.00%	January	0.00%	April	0.00%	
August	0.00%	November	0.00%	February	0.00%	May	0.00%	
September	0.00%	December	0.00%	March	0.00%	June	0.00%	
QTR Average	**0.00%**	**QTR Average**	**0.00%**	**QTR Average**	**0.00%**	**QTR Average**	**0.00%**	
							Annual Average	**0.00%**

6. The county will provide leadership to ensure that of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period in the county, the rate of placement moves per 1000 days of foster care will not exceed 4.1.

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		
July	0.00%	October	0.00%	January	0.00%	April	0.00%	
August	0.00%	November	0.00%	February	0.00%	May	0.00%	
September	0.00%	December	0.00%	March	0.00%	June	0.00%	
QTR Average	**0.00%**	**QTR Average**	**0.00%**	**QTR Average**	**0.00%**	**QTR Average**	**0.00%**	
							Annual Average	**0.00%**

NOTE: The quarterly average will be inaccurate if the data from all three months within that quarter are not recorded.

Adult Protective Services

1. The county will complete 85% of APS evaluations involving allegations of abuse or neglect within 30 days of the report

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		
July	5@100%	October		January		April		
August	10@100%	November		February		May		
September		December		March		June		
QTR Average	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	
							Annual Average	**#DIV/0!**

2. The county will complete 85% of APS evaluations involving allegations of exploitation within 45 days of the report.

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		
July	4@100%	October		January		April		
August	3@100%	November		February		May		
September		December		March		June		
QTR Average	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	
							Annual Average	**#DIV/0!**

NOTE: The quarterly average will be inaccurate if the data from all three months within that quarter are not recorded.

Adult Protective Services - Special Assistance for the Aged and Disabled

1. Special Assistance for the Aged Applications

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4			
July	100.00%	October		January		April			
August	100.00%	November		February		May			
September		December		March		June			
QTR Average	**100%**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**		
								Annual Average	**#DIV/0!**

2. Special Assistance for the Disabled

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4			
July	100.00%	October		January		April			
August	100.00%	November		February		May			
September		December		March		June			
QTR Average	**100%**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**		
								Annual Average	**#DIV/0!**

NOTE: The quarterly average will be inaccurate if the data from all three months within that quarter are not recorded.

Child Support Services

1. Percentage of paternities established or acknowledged for children born out of wedlock. The county paternity establishment performance level must exceed 50% at the end of the State Fiscal Year (June 30).

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July	91.23%	October		January		April	
August	93.57%	November		February		May	
September		December		March		June	
QTR Average	**92.40%**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**
						Annual Average	**#DIV/0!**

2. Percentage of child support cases that have a court order establishing support obligations. The county support order establishment performance level must exceed 50% at the end of the State Fiscal Year (June 30).

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July	93.20%	October		January		April	
August	92.61%	November		February		May	
September		December		March		June	
QTR Average	**92.91%**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**
						Annual Average	**#DIV/0!**

3. Percentage of current child support paid. The county current collections performance level must exceed 40% at the end of the State Fiscal Year (June 30).

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July	69.15%	October		January		April	
August	66.21%	November		February		May	
September		December		March		June	
QTR Average	**67.68%**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**
						Annual Average	**#DIV/0!**

4. Percentage of cases received a payment toward arrears. The county arrearage collections performance level must exceed 40% at the end of the State Fiscal Year (June 30).

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July	34.04%	October		January		April	
August	42.22%	November		February		May	
September		December		March		June	
QTR Average	**38.13%**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**	**QTR Average**	**#DIV/0!**
						Annual Average	**#DIV/0!**

NOTE: The quarterly average will be inaccurate if the data from all three months within that quarter are not recorded.

COURT CASE SYNOPSIS

AUGUST 27 & SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

FILE #	DAYS IN CARE AT THE TIME OF COURT	RESULT OF COURT	CONTINUANCE REASON: *-CHILD SPECIFIC !- ATTY/CT/PARENT RELATED	NEXT HEARING	IMPACT
AUGUST 27					
21JA33/37	1450	CONT	! TPR ORDER APPEAL PERIOD NOT OVER. * RF SIGNING RELINQUISHMENTS	9/24/2025	1 MO – WANTED TO CEASE VISITATION
24JA1052	241	CONSENT		1/8/2026	N/A
25JA25	129	ADJUDICATED		9/10/2025	N/A
25JA26/27	90	ADJUDICATED		9/24/2025	N/A
25JA30	0	CONT	* PRIVATE CUSTODY	9/24/2025	CALENDAR WITH SIBLINGS
25JA31/32	8	NSC HEARING		9/24/2025	NONE
25JA33/35	0	DISMISSAL			LEFT THE STATE - OBSTRUCTION
SEPTEMBER 10					
24JA1	583	FINAL PTPR		N/A	ADOPTION
25JA25	142	CONT	*SW WITH INFANT FOR SURGERY.	9/24/25	2 WEEKS – STILL WITHIN

			! RM GAL ATTY HAD CHILD SUPT COURT		DISPOSITION TIMELINES
25JA36	6	NSC HEARING		9/16/2025	NONE

Pre-adjudication Reunification Other than Reunification Post TPR Not in custody

Board Report

Service Month: **August 2025**

Budget

	Aug-25	% of Budget	Aug-24	% of Budget
Total Revenues (YTD)	$465,090.47	10.8%	$612,733.05	13.0%
Total Expenses (YTD)	$4,148,708.45	38.9%	$3,893,921.95	35.8%
Expenses without settlement	$1,220,137.05	14.2%	$965,350.52	10.9%

Services

Child Welfare	**Aug-25**	**Current -YTD**	**Calendar Year Aug-24**	**Current -YTD**
# of Child Abuse Reports Received	36	286	14	269
# of Screened In Reports	18	147	9	167
# of Screened out Reports	18	135	5	90
# of Other County Assists	4		5	
# of Open Assessments on last day of month	23		25	
# of Open In-Home (Case Mgmt.) Services Cases	3		5	
# of Children Entered Into Legal Custody	2	20	0	12
# of Children Left Custody	1	28	2	16
# of Children In Legal Custody	32		32	
# of Children Placed With Relatives	7		10	
# of Children Placed in Foster Homes/Other Placements	23		22	
# of Foster Care 18-21	2		5	
# of Licensed Foster Homes	10		12	
# of Agency Adoptions Completed	1	17	0	12
# of Non-Agency Adoptions Completed	0	3	1	3
# of Infants Affected by Substance Abuse	1	11	0	8
# of Child Family Team Meetings	20		5	

Adult Services	**Aug-25**	**Current CY-YTD**	**Aug-24**	**Current CY-YTD**
# of Adult Protective Services Reports	22	153	16	137
# of APS Reports Accepted for Evaluation	13	78	4	60
# of Representative Payees	18		18	
# of Current Guardianship Cases	23		21	
# of Adult Care Homes	3		3	
# of Medicaid Transportation Clients	115		119	
# of Transit, L&N and Client reimbursed Trips	73	734	187	1,263

Child Support Enforcement	**Aug-25**	**Current-YTD**	**Fiscal Year Aug-24**	**Current-YTD**
# of Active Cases	570	570	580	580
# of Paternity	4	5	4	9
CS Orders Established	10	18	8	14
# of Modifications Completed	0	10	0	0
# of Enforcement Actions Completed	31	64	46	17
Amount of Collections	$82,186.33	$184,337.49	$73,005.44	$153,202.76
Arrears — Total Outstanding	**$2,857,857.21**	**Collected FY-YTD Arrears**		**$42,706.21**
Inherited Arrears	**$754,172.43**			
Outstanding Purge Amounts	**$238,714.54**			

Economic Services	**Aug-25**	**Calendar Year YTD**	**Aug-24**	**Calendar Year YTD**
# of Medicaid/Special Assistance Appl Taken	244	1895	293	1665
# of Medicaid/SA Recerts completed	468	3839	555	4257
# of Medicaid Participants	11,104		11,051	
# of Special Assistance Participants	56		59	
# of TANF Participants	7		10	
# of FNS Applications (applications denied)	156 (37)	1083 (298)	211 (55)	1338 (354)
# of FNS Recerts completed	175	1248	168	1298
# of FNS Benefits Paid	$ 721,198.00	$ 4,611,254.00	$751,193.00	$5,259,860.00
# of FNS Households	2242		2,339	19190.00
Fraud Collections	$340.00	$3,536.00	$344.00	$2,480.00
# of Day Care Recipients	155		144	
# on Day Care Waiting List	0		0	
Energy Assistance (Heating/Cooling)				
LIEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance Program) Appl Taken	0	175	0	203
LIEAP Benefits Paid	$0.00	$29,700.00	0	$58,900.00
CRISIS Applications Taken	13	159	14	131
CRISIS Benefits Paid	$4,036.73	$38,909.96	$1,614.99	$27,343.35

Personnel

Vacancies/Hires/Terminations for August 2025

		Vacancies
New Hires	0	(9) as of August 31, 2025
New Hire Orientations Completed	0	
Interagency Transfers	0	
Separations	4	
Promotion or Work/Against	1	
Reason for Separation:	( ) Retirement; ( ) Relocation; (X) Dismissal (X) Resignation	
Length of Service:	(X) Less than 2 yrs.; ( ) 2-5 years; (X) 5-10 years; ( ) over 10 years	



Face of Rotary: Cathy Yost

This week, our spotlight shines on Dr. Cathy Yost, a true example of what it means to live with a servant's heart. Cathy gives so generously of her time and talents—often more than 35 hours each month—bringing comfort, support, and encouragement to people all across Cherokee County.

Her love for the community is evident in everything she does. As the Cherokee County Alternate Delegate for the Senior Tar Heel Legislature and a member of the Department of Social Services Board, Cathy works tirelessly to make sure that the voices of seniors and vulnerable families are heard and valued. Within Rotary, she shares her passion for education through Rotary Reads, inspiring children to discover the joy of books, and she helps brighten young smiles through the Smiles Project, ensuring children receive much-needed dental care.

Beyond Rotary, Cathy continues to give of herself in countless ways. She volunteers at Erlanger Western Carolina Hospital's Outpatient Rehabilitation, where her kind presence and encouragement mean so much to patients on their healing journeys. She is also a steady hand at the Sharing Center and Hiwassee Dam Food Banks, helping families put food on the table during times of need. And with a heart for the next generation, she mentor's youth through the Mayor's Rising Stars Youth Leadership Program, guiding them toward lives of service and responsibility.

Cathy's kindness, dedication, and quiet strength make a lasting impression on everyone she meets. Her life is a beautiful reflection of Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self," and we are truly blessed to have her as part of our Rotary family.

Good Afternoon,

I just wanted to send all my appreciation and kudos to Jeremy Lance with Cherokee County DSS. He has been EXTREMELY helpful and supportive to our shared member Arlene Claflin. He assisted with obtaining her things out of a storage unit, and all needed documentation for her to move to Cherry Springs Village Assisted Living. Janet checked in with her today and she is THRIVING at this new facility. Again, thank you SO much Jeremy for all your help!! As well as of course Daunita for locating the facility for us! You all are an AMAZING team to work with.

Thank you so much,

Haley Rollins, LCSW
Western Region Complex Care Manager-Cherokee/Clay/Graham County
Vaya Health I 200 Ridgefield Court
Asheville, NC 28806
O 828-225-2785 x1053
F 828-412-4096
E Haley.Rollins@vayahealth.com
Behavioral Health Crisis Line 1-800-849-6127 Hours: 24/7/365
Member and Recipient Services Line 1-800-962-9003 Hours: Mon-Sat 7a-6p
Provider Support Line 1-866-990-9712 Hours: Mon-Sat 7a-6p

VAYAHEALTH

08-19-2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to highly recommend Ms. Stephanie M for her outstanding work for helping me with great parental advice and Behavioral Help. Over the course of five weeks, she worked closely with me and my children, providing parenting advice and behavioral guidance that had a truly positive impact on our family.

Ms. Stephanie M was professional, compassionate, and fully engaged throughout our time together. She introduced me to effective and healthy parenting techniques, giving me the tools I needed to better support and guide my children. She explained strategies in a way that was clear and easy to follow, and she always encouraged me to apply them in real-life situations with patience and confidence.

What stood out most was how well she connected with both myself and my children. She built a strong rapport quickly, creating a safe and comfortable environment where we could learn and grow together. My children enjoyed working with her and looked forward to our sessions, which speaks volumes about her ability to balance professionalism with warmth and understanding.

I am deeply grateful for the knowledge, skills, and support Ms. Stephanie provided. Her dedication and expertise made a lasting difference in my parenting journey, and I would recommend her services without hesitation to any family seeking guidance in parenting and behavioral help.

Please contact me with any questions anyone has regarding our time together and my recommendation. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Dolores Ambrosino
828-541-9583

CHEROKEE COUNTY

75 Peachtree Street
Murphy, NC 28906
828-837-5527

County Administration
Randy Wiggins, County Manager
Maria Hass, Asst. County Manager/Clerk to Board
Candy R. Anderson, CPA, Chief Financial Officer
Darryl R. Brown, County Attorney

Board of Commissioners
Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Chairman
Cal Stiles, Vice-Chairman
Ben Adams, Member
Alan Bryant, Member
Mark Stiles, Member

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF CHEROKEE COUNTY DSS CHILD SUPPORT TEAM

WHEREAS, North Carolina Child Support Services provides for the collection of child support payments and enforcement in all 100 North Carolina counties from Murphy to Manteo.

WHEREAS, North Carolina Child Support Services each year evaluates county child support services and recognizes exceptional efforts at its annual conference.

WHEREAS, Jessica Watkins and Paul Biecker are the Child Support Team for the Cherokee County Department of Social Services.

WHEREAS, North Carolina Child Support Services awarded the following on the 21st day of August 2025 to the Cherokee County Child Support Team:

1. The Most Improved Overall in Incentive Performance Gold Medal
2. Award for Outstanding Achievement in Overall Collection, Incentives and Self Assessed Performance Measures.
3. **The 2025 North Carolina Team of the Year**

WHEREFORE, the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners hereby resolves and proclaims the highest recognition and gratitude, on behalf of the children of Cherokee County, to the Cherokee County Child Support Team for its outstanding performance. The Board further offers its congratulations to the Cherokee County Department of Social Services and its entire staff for achieving these high honors.

This the 15th day of September, 2025.

_____

Dr. Dan Eichenbaum
Chairman of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners

APHSA
American Public Human Services Association

Last updated: August 22, 2025

Human Services Work Requirement Crosswalk

as Impacted by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA/H.R. 1)



The following chart summarizes the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) work requirements, Able Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) work requirements, the newly established community engagement requirements in Medicaid, the SNAP Employment & Training (SNAP E&T) program requirements, and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Work Participation Rate (WPR) requirements based on the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA/H.R.1).

SNAP ABAWD requirements were significantly altered and new Medicaid community engagement requirements were established by the passage of OBBBA/H.R. 1. Our interpretation of these changes is included in the table below. As of the last update to this chart, we are still awaiting guidance from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and thus these interpretations are subject to change as we learn more from our federal partners. If you have any questions or would like to discuss more, please reach out to Chloe Green, Manager of Food & Nutrition Services at **cgreen@aphsa.org**.

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Human Services Work Requirement Crosswalk

as Impacted by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA/H.R. 1)

	SNAP General Work Requirements	SNAP ABAWD Work Requirements	Medicaid Work Requirements	SNAP Employment & Training	TANF WPR Requirements
How does OBBBA/H.R. 1 affect requirements?	No changes to existing statute.	Modifies age range, who is exempt, and how a state or local area can qualify for waivers.	Establishes new community engagement/work requirement provisions for certain adults.	No changes to existing statute.	No changes to existing statute.
What is the effective date?	N/A	As of the last update to this document, we are still awaiting clarity on implementation dates because none were included in the legislation. This uncertainty includes when these changes must be applied to individual eligibility and the impact to currently approved waivers.	January 1, 2027; earlier if a state opts in by amending state plan or receives a 1115 waiver to do so (note that we are still awaiting CMS guidance to understand what would be sufficient to receive this waiver).	N/A	N/A
Can requirements be waived?	No	Yes, at state request, if state or local area has unemployment rate over 10 percent (note that waivers were previously also permitted with justification of insufficient jobs). There is also a special waiver authority for Alaska and Hawai'i through 2028.	If the state substantiates good faith effort to implement the provision, they may request an exemption up to December 31, 2028. However, it is not yet clear how likely it is that waivers will be granted.	No waiver necessary, but states have broad authority on exemptions (see below). State agencies gain approval through the annual state E&T Plan.	A state's WPR requirement can be reduced by several methods. The two most common include excess state Maintenance-of-Effort (MOE) spending or reduction of the state TANF caseload thereby receiving Caseload Reduction Credit (CRC). The individual requirement is monitored at the state level.
What is the age range?	Ages 16 -59	Ages 18-64	Ages 19-64	Generally, the same age range as General SNAP Work Requirements.	Generally, parents or adult caretakers receiving TANF cash assistance above 18, or minor parents who are heads of houeshold.

	SNAP General Work Requirements	SNAP ABAWD Work Requirements	Medicaid Work Requirements	SNAP Employment & Training	TANF WPR Requirements
Who is exempt or excused (good cause)?	Already working at least 30 hours a week (or earning wages at least equal to the federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours). Meeting work requirements for another program (TANF or unemployment compensation). Taking care of a child under six or an incapacitated person. Unable to work due to a physical or mental limitation. Participating regularly in an alcohol or drug treatment program. Going to school, college, or a training program at least half-time.	Medically certified or physically or mentally unfit for employment. A parent or other member of a household with responsibility for a dependent child under 14 years of age. A pregnant woman. Exempt from the General Work Requirements. Living in an area where the ABAWD Time Limit is waived. Indian or an Urban Indian. California Indian.	A pregnant woman. A person under 19 or over 64. A former foster youth under 26. Tribal members and Alaska Natives. Veterans with rated disabilities. Medically frail individuals. People participating in a substance use or alcohol use disorder treatment program. People who are compliant with TANF/SNAP work requirements. People who are parents or caregivers of a dependent child 13 years of age and under or someone with a disability. People who are currently incarcerated or have been released within the past 90 days. Family caregiver as defined in RAISE Family Caregivers Act. Individuals enrolled in or entitled to Medicare Part A or B coverage. Individuals entitled to certain categories of postpartum medical assistance.	States have broad authority to exempt work registrants from the requirement to participate in E&T. Exemptions can include: For Voluntary Programs: • All work registrants For Mandatory Programs: Generally follow the same exemptions as the General Work Requirement, with additional optional exemptions, including: • Geographic location • Pregnancy • Homelessness • Low English Proficiency In addition, states must exempt individuals if there are: • Lack of appropriate available slots in E&T • All individuals whose participant reimbursement exceeds what the state agency will reimburse	At the federal level, minor parents who are not heads-of-household, non-recipient parents (unless they live with a child receiving TANF assistance), recipients under age 18, unless they are heads-of-household. States can also create additional exemptions at their discretion. Above these federal regulations, exemptions are at state discretion. This commonly includes those who are ill or incapacitated, caring for someone who is incapacitated, or above a certain age. Some states also exempt pregnant women or people with infants.
How do short-term hardships affect work requirements?	State agencies are required to take into account good cause for not meeting work requirements including, but not limited to, circumstances beyond the individual's control, such as illness or lack of adequate child care. State agencies determine if individuals have good cause for failing to meet these work requirements.	State agencies must grant good cause for temporary circumstances, such that an individual would have otherwise fulfilled the requirement. Good cause shall include circumstances beyond the individual's control, such as, but not limited to, illness, illness of another household member requiring the presence of the individual, a household emergency or unavailability of transportation.	State agencies can deem an individual to have met community eligibility requirements under the following circumstances: • Inpatient hospital services, including nursing home or psychiatric placement • Individual resides in an area declared a disaster under the Stafford Act • Individuals have to travel outside the area to receive medical services for a serious or complex condition	See general work requirements. Good cause includes circumstances where the state agency determines that there is not an appropriate available opening within the E&T program for the participant, available for as long as there is a lack of an appropriate slot.	At state discretion.

	SNAP General Work Requirements	SNAP ABAWD Work Requirements	Medicaid Work Requirements	SNAP Employment & Training	TANF WPR Requirements
What certification periods are allowed for these individuals?	Same as general SNAP population (up to 12 month certifications).	Same as general SNAP population (up to 12 month certs for those under 60, however 3 or 4 month certs are recommended by FNS for ABAWDs).	Same as general Medicaid expansion population (every 6 months).	Same as general SNAP population.	At state discretion within the federally required 60-month time limit.
When is the timeframe for compliance oversight with work requirements?	Condition of eligibility—screening part of certification and redetermination. Ongoing throughout receipt of benefits in accordance with reporting requirements.	Not a condition of eligibility, however, a state agency should screen for exemptions as part of the certification/recertification process. Individual must follow requirements on the first day of the first full month after the state agency determines that the individual is not exempt from the requirements. Ongoing throughout receipt of benefits, in accordance with reporting requirements. Participant is allowed three countable months of non-compliance in a 36-month period before subject to termination of benefits. The state agency must track countable months within the 36-month period and apply the time limit accordingly. Note that state agency must track countable months even if there are breaks in a person's time-limit status or participation in SNAP. State has discretionary exemptions that may be applied to some individuals.	Condition of eligibility—at application, the state agency look back period is for 1 or more but not more than 3 consecutive months to determine if work requirement has been met during that period. Seasonal workers allowed an average monthly income that is not less than the applicable minimum age requirement over a 6-month period. At renewal, it must be during at least one month of the previous 6-month eligibility period (but does not have to be the immediately preceding month). At a state agency option, verification can occur more frequently.	States are required to screen all work registrants not otherwise exempted by the state agency as part of the certification process. Screening by an eligibility worker must include the following: • Conduct assessment of skills to determine appropriate placement and identify barriers to participation • Screen for the need for supportive services (transportation, child care, accommodations) • Make a referral if appropriate	Generally two years.

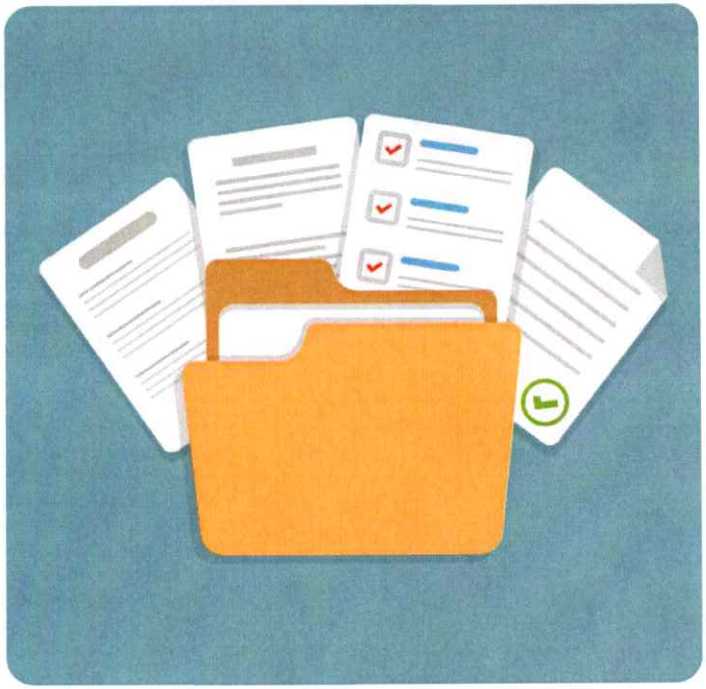


	SNAP General Work Requirements	SNAP ABAWD Work Requirements	Medicaid Work Requirements	SNAP Employment & Training	TANF WPR Requirements
How does an individual meet the requirements?	Register for work. Accept an offer of suitable employment. Not voluntarily quit or reduce hours of employment below 30 hours per week without good cause. Participate in workfare or SNAP E&T if required by the state agency.	Work at least 80 hours a month. Work can be for pay, for goods or services (for something other than money), unpaid, or as a volunteer. Participate in a work program at least 80 hours a month. A work program could be SNAP E&T or another federal, state, or local work program. Participate in a combination of work and work program hours for a total of at least 80 hours a month. Participate in workfare for the number of hours assigned to you each month (the number of hours will depend on the amount of your SNAP benefit).	The following criteria were listed in the legislation, but subject to regulation: ▪ Works not less than 80 hours/month ▪ Completes not less than 80 hours/month of community service ▪ Participates in a work program 80 hours/month ▪ Any combination of the above totally not less than 80 hours/month ▪ Individual is enrolled n an education program at least half time ▪ Individual has an income above the federal minimum wage times 80 hours, or $580/month ▪ For seasonal workers, average monthly income above the federal minimum wage times 80 hours, or $580 over previous 6 month period	States have flexibility in how they design their program. It is required that states must operate a program that consists of case management and at least one or more components. Components are approved as part of the state plan and can include: ▪ Supervised job search with restrictions on length of participation ▪ Job search training ▪ Workfare ▪ Work experience, including on the job training or vocational training ▪ Educational programs, skills training, or other programs that improve participant employability ▪ Job retention services Participants comply by participating in one or more components as directed by the state agency.	In general, the individual compliance requirement varies by states based on their WPR and qualified reductions. If a state does not have a significantly reduced WPR, 50% of all families and 90% of two-parent families must meet work requirements. Federal regulations set the following minimum weekly work requirements: ▪ For single parents/caretaker relatives: 30 hours/wk, 20 of which are required core activities ▪ For single parents with a child under 6: 20 hours/wk, 20 of which are required core activities ▪ For two-parent families: 35 hours/wk, 30 of which are required core activities ▪ For two-parent families (with TANF-funded child care): 55 hours/wk, 50 of which are required core activities Core activities include: ▪ Unsubsidized or subsidized employment ▪ Work experience ▪ On-the-job training ▪ Job search and job readiness assistance (limited duration) ▪ Community service ▪ Vocational educational training (limited to 12 months) ▪ Caring for a child of a recipient in community service Non-core activities include: ▪ Education directly related to employment ▪ Job skills training ▪ Secondary school attendance (for those without a diploma)



	SNAP General Work Requirements	SNAP ABAWD Work Requirements	Medicaid Work Requirements	SNAP Employment & Training	TANF WPR Requirements
What are the verification requirements?	State agency is not required to verify an exemption or exception unless it determines the information is questionable or verification is otherwise required by program rules, for example, disability status. Good cause—state agency must request verification of individual's statements to the extent that the information is questionable. The individual has primary responsibility for providing verification. Registered for work or E&T/ workfare referral verified. Enrollment confirmation; training or work assignment letters.	Exceptions as defined in the Act are verified only if questionable. State agencies are generally not required to verify unless information is otherwise required by program rules or questionable. However, verification rules require mandatory verification for ABAWDs as follows: • Hours worked: for individuals satisfying the requirement by working or combining work and participation in a work program or participating in a work or workfare program not operated or supervised by the state agency • Countable months in another state if there is an indication that the individual participated in that state	The following verification requirements were listed in the legislation but subject to regulation: • The state shall establish processes and use reliable information available to the state such as payroll data or payments or encounter data under this title for individuals and data on payments to such individuals for the provision of services covered under this title without requiring where possible the applicable individual to submit additional information • The state agency shall implement Ex Parte verification procedures to the extent possible	States must screen all work registrants not otherwise exempt during the SNAP certification process. Generally, states are required to track and verify participation in E&T components including attendance records, hours of participation and completion of activities and must describe in their state plans how they plan to address how they will monitor and track these.	Almost all work activities must be supervised on an ongoing basis; at least once per day the individual is scheduled to participate. States must maintain accurate documentation of the type of activity, number of hours participated, supervision and verification of participation, and any exemptions or good cause determinations. State agencies must submit a work verification plan that outlines how states verify work for participants.
What are the notice requirements?	State agencies must provide households with a consolidated written notice and an oral explanation of all applicable work requirements, including the general work requirements, ABAWD requirements, and mandatory SNAP E&T, if assigned. The state agency must provide this consolidated written notice and oral explanation at certification, recertification, and whenever a previously exempt household member or new household member becomes subject to work requirements. Notice of Adverse Action requirements also apply. See below.	Same as SNAP general work requirements.	Notice of community engagement provision implementation prior to December 31, 2026 or at least three months prior to the go-live date and periodically as part of certification and recertification process thereafter, though this will be subject to regulation. Notice required in writing and one additional form, including telephone, text message, website, or other available electronic means.	Same as the SNAP general work requirements.	States must conduct an initial assessment of each recipient who is at least 18 years old, or has not completed high school and is not attending secondary school. States may develop an Individual Responsibility Plan (RP) that, if used, acts as a formal notice of what is expected from the recipient and what supports may be provided.

	SNAP General Work Requirements	SNAP ABAWD Work Requirements	Medicaid Work Requirements	SNAP Employment & Training	TANF WPR Requirements
What happens if a participant fails to comply with work requirements?	State agency must impose a disqualification in the instance of non-compliance, as follows: • At the first occurrence of non-compliance, state agency can choose a period of disqualification 1-3 months; • At the second occurrence of non-compliance, state agency can choose a period of disqualification 2-6 months; • At the third occurrence of non-compliance, state agency can choose a period of 6 months or permanent disqualification.	The state agency must apply the time limit to time-limited participants that use all three countable months in a 36-month period.	The following procedures were listed in the legislation but are subject to regulation: If a state is unable to verify that an applicable individual has met the requirement to demonstrate community engagement and is not exempt, the state shall provide such individual with the notice of noncompliance, provide such individual with a period of 30 calendar days, beginning on the date on which such notice of noncompliance is received by the individual, to make a satisfactory showing to the state of compliance with such requirement (including, if applicable, by showing that such individual was or should be deemed to have demonstrated community engagement or make a satisfactory showing to the state that such requirement does not apply to such individual on the basis that such individual does not meet the definition of applicable individual). If an ongoing recipient covered by Medicaid, the state agency must also continue to provide medical assistance during the 30 day calendar period. If individual does not provide satisfactory showing, state agency will deny such individual's application for medical assistance not later than the end of the month following the month in which such 30-calendar-day period ends.	States may designate SNAP E&T participation as mandatory for certain work registrants. If a mandatory participant fails to comply, the state's designated disqualification rules apply. Voluntary participants are not subject to disqualification for noncompliance. Before imposing a sanction, the state must determine whether the individual had good cause for noncompliance. Generally, nonexempt individuals who refuse or fail to comply without good cause to mandatory SNAP E&T requirements (as part of the SNAP work requirement) may be disqualified from SNAP.	The state must sanction a TANF household if they refuse to participate in work activities and are not exempt. The sanction is determined by the state and can involve reducing or removing benefits from an individual or household.



	SNAP General Work Requirements	SNAP ABAWD Work Requirements	Medicaid Work Requirements	SNAP Employment & Training	TANF WPR Requirements
What are the notice requirements around denial or discontinuation of benefits?	The state agency must send a formal Notice of Adverse Action (NOAA) to the recipient before suspending, reducing, or terminating benefits due to noncompliance with work requirements. The NOAA must include: ▪ The action being taken (e.g., benefit suspension or reduction) ▪ The reason for the action ▪ The specific regulation or policy being applied ▪ The effective date of the change ▪ The household's right to request a fair hearing ▪ The deadline for requesting a hearing to continue benefits during the appeal ▪ How to regain compliance, if applicable Timing of the NOAA: ▪ At least 10 days before the action takes effect (known as "advance notice" or "timely notice")	Same as general work requirements. Note that the state agency must send the NOAA and prepare to terminate benefits for the time-limited participant before the end of their third countable month. If the tracking system indicates that a person is in their third countable month, the state agency proceeds to send the NOAA at least 10 days before the end of the month and prepares to terminate benefits for the time-limited participant before it issues the next month's benefit allotment.	The following procedures were listed in the legislation but are subject to regulation: The individual must be provided written notice and granted an opportunity for a fair hearing prior to discontinuation of benefits. The notice of noncompliance shall include information how such individual may make a satisfactory showing of compliance with such requirement or make a satisfactory showing that such requirement does not apply to such individual on the basis that such individual does not meet the definition of applicable individual and how such individual may reapply for Medicaid.	Same as general work requirements. Note that state agencies may offer a conciliation process as part of its E&T program. In this case, NOAA would be offered no later than the end of conciliation period if necessary.	Every applicant or recipient shall be informed in writing at the time of application and at the time of any action affecting their claim. Notice is mailed at least 10 days before the date of action which is the date upon which the action would become effective.
How does a request for a fair hearing impact the case?	If a recipient requests a fair hearing within that 10-day window, benefits must continue unchanged until the hearing decision is issued, subject to certification periods.	Same as general work requirements.	Unclear, awaiting guidance.	Same as general work requirements.	If a recipient requests a fair hearing within that 10-day window, benefits must continue unchanged until the hearing decision is issued unless it meets one of the outlined exceptions.
How are other household members impacted?	State agency option to disqualify entire household if head of household is disqualified.	Can impact benefit level for the household.	No impact because Medicaid eligibility is determined at the individual level.	Same as general work requirements.	If an individual fails without good cause to comply with an individual responsibility plan that the individual signed, the state may reduce the amount of assistance otherwise payable to the family by whatever amount it considers appropriate.

	SNAP General Work Requirements	SNAP ABAWD Work Requirements	Medicaid Work Requirements	SNAP Employment & Training	TANF WPR Requirements
How does an individual regain eligibility?	Subject to the disqualification periods imposed by the state agency and compliance with work requirements, participation may resume if individual applies again and is determined by the state agency to be in compliance with work requirements. Individual can also regain participation during the disqualification period if they are eligible for an exemption.	Individuals can reapply at any time. A change in circumstances may make them exempt and therefore eligible. An individual that has used all three countable months of benefits in a 36-month period can also regain eligibility by meeting the ABAWD Work Requirements over 30 consecutive days. An individual that regains eligibility by meeting the 80-hour requirement is eligible for an additional three month eligibility, starting on the date the individual first notifies the state agency that the individual is no longer meeting the requirement. Additional three months only provided once in a 36-month period.	Not explicitly in statute, but it appears this would be addressed in June 2026 regulation as follows: An individual can reapply at any time. A change in circumstances may make them exempt and therefore eligible. Alternatively, they must meet the work requirements for the 30-day period prior to application in order to satisfy this condition of eligibility.	Same as general work requirements.	An individual may reapply for benefits as long as they have not exceeded total time limit on TANF benefits.

