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
October 21, 2025

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Cherokee County Department of Social Services was duly held on October 21, 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
Tracy Jones, Program Manager
Andria Duncan, DSS Attorney
Brandy Clonts, Administrative Officer/Clerk to the Board
Public Forum:
Dawn McCurdy, GAL

II. Discussion and Adoption of Agenda

- **Motion to move *Government Shutdown Potential Impacts* from item VII. New Business to Item V. Old Business, Section B, and Adopt Agenda as amended:** 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:** Mrs. Pat Ivie made a motion to approve the September 16, 2025 meeting minutes. Dr. Cathrine Yost seconded. All voted in favor.

IV. Public Comments

None.

V. Old Business

A. Safety – Gun Safety for Citizens and Staff

- Director McGee read to the Board the paragraphs she prepared regarding the Gun Safety Awareness Initiative for both clients and staff. All members were provided with a copy of the written statements.
- The Director explained that the client statement will appear on the SinePro prompt when clients sign into the agency to meet with staff. All clients will be offered a free gun lock if desired.
- The staff component of the initiative includes distribution of the Gun Safety Initiative policy, and staff will be provided with a gun safety lock box upon request.
- Dawn McCurdy (GAL) noted that knives have previously been brought into meetings. Director McGee stated that the term "weapons" will be added to the statement for broader inclusion.
- **Motion to post the statement regarding concealed carry guns and weapons as discussed:** Mrs. Pat Ivie made a motion to add the item and adopt the agenda. Mr. James Jallah seconded. All voted in favor.

B. Government Shutdown Potential Impacts

- Director McGee provided the Board with the document titled "DHHS-DSS Business Operations/Business Information Guidance – Federal Government Shutdown." The letter states that funding for Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) in November could be distributed with partial benefits, and McGee cautioned that benefits could also be held back 100%.
- Director McGee met with Pastor Will Posey from the Methodist Church, and together they have scheduled a meeting at 1st United Methodist Church with all food banks and churches that provide food assistance in the county. The meeting will be held Thursday, October 23, 2025, from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM. The discussion will focus on community efforts in the event that FNS funding is unavailable, potentially affecting approximately 2,300 families in Cherokee County.
- County officials explored options to cover funding for November 2025; however, the government would not allow it, and the county does not have the nearly $1 million required to cover the costs. Additional concerns were noted regarding TANF and the Energy Program, as ongoing services will have no funding through June beyond the initial amount that has been set aside.
- Director McGee held a meeting with staff on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, to inform them of the current situation and clarify that furloughs have not been discussed at this time.

VI. Management Reports

A. DHHS MOU Data September 2025

- Data was provided and reviewed with all board members.
- The State Auditor's report listed counties that were failing as well as those succeeding. Cherokee County's Income Maintenance/Child Support (IMC) Department ranked #3 in the top 10 counties in North Carolina.
- Director McGee credited the staff, stating:
  "They are dedicated, hard-working people who understand that what they do ensures food and medical care reaches the people in our county."
- It was noted that the Special Assistance did not meet the usual 100% performance standard. This was due to two applications that were appealed, causing both cases to exceed the 45-day processing limit.

B. DSS Service Report

- The DSS Service Report was provided and reviewed.
- It was noted that the number of reports received for Child Welfare has increased. Tracy Jones, Program Manager, explained that the increase is due to the new system, PATHNC. Dr. Yost inquired about the criteria for a report to be screened out. Tracy explained that:
  - A report is screened out if it does not meet the required criteria.
  - There are three levels a report must go through to be screened out, with the final review conducted by Tracy.

- Program Administrator Jones highlighted that the new intake social worker, Wayde Lovingood, who is an attorney, is doing a phenomenal job handling all intake reports and seems to be enjoying the work.
- It was also noted that APS reports have increased.

C. Retention Data

- Retention data was received from Mandi Amos, County HR Director. The report shows that for the first quarter, the agency had an overall 5% turnover.
- Director McGee noted that the agency currently has highly tenured staff, with employees remaining in the same programs for longer periods of time. Flexibility is allowed as long as the work is being completed effectively. Some units have the option to work remotely with expectations and performance standards that are set very high, ensuring that the arrangement works well. Director McGee emphasized that these factors contribute positively to staff retention.

D. Staff/Unit Accomplishments

- Food and Nutrition Services ranked 3rd in the state for compliance. Director McGee congratulated the Food and Nutrition staff for this achievement.
- Andria Duncan, DSS Attorney, commended Daunita Maennle, APS Supervisor, for receiving a funding from UNC Chapel Hill for six Cherokee County MDT members to attend a fully funded two-day training in Chapel Hill.
- Director McGee commended Gabrielle Grant for being appointed as head of the Child Fatality Team. Gabrielle will organize the team and fill positions for additional members as required. The team will hold a minimum two meetings per year as required by law.

VII. Adjourn

- **Motion to Adjourn:** Dr. Catherine Yost made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Pat Ivie seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 PM.

Gun Safety Awareness Initiative

Cherokee County Department of Social Services is committed to promoting child safety and preventing avoidable tragedies. Firearm-related injuries are now the leading cause of death among children in the United States, and many of these losses occur due to unsecured guns in the home. To help protect our children and community, Cherokee County DSS is offering **free gun safety locks** to any citizen who wishes to secure their firearms safely. We encourage all gun owners to take advantage of this opportunity and join us in our shared mission and responsibility to keep children safe. Simple steps—like locking and safely storing firearms—save lives.

Safe Storage for Visitors Carrying Firearms

Cherokee County Department of Social Services values the safety of every child, family, and citizen who visits our agency. We recognize that some visitors may lawfully carry firearms under North Carolina's conceal carry laws. To ensure the safety of all individuals in our building—especially children—we are offering **free safety lock boxes** for use while conducting business at DSS. These lock boxes allow gun owners to **secure their own firearms personally** before entering child-accessible areas. The owner maintains full control of the key or combination at all times, and DSS staff will not handle, store, or have access to any firearm. This approach respects citizens' rights while ensuring a safe, secure, and welcoming environment for everyone.

Staff Firearm Safety Reminder

Cherokee County Department of Social Services fully supports the right of lawful concealed carry in accordance with North Carolina law. At the same time, our first responsibility is to ensure the safety of the children, families, and citizens who enter our building each day. To that end, all firearms brought into the DSS facility must be **secured at all times** in an approved, locked storage device when not in the immediate possession of the owner. Firearms should never be left unattended, visible, or accessible in any area where children or visitors may be present. Staff are encouraged to utilize the **free gun safety locks** available through our Gun Safety Awareness Initiative. Together, we can respect individual rights while upholding our shared duty to maintain a safe and secure environment for everyone in our care.

DHHS-DSS Business Operations/Business Information Guidance - Federal Government Shutdown

Dear County DSS Directors,

While many NCDHHS services continue without interruption, some programs that rely on federal funding may face delays or temporary adjustments depending on the length of the federal shutdown. We continue to monitor our programs, budgets, and communications from the federal government.

To provide timely updates while not overburdening you, we will continue to update and resend this summary document periodically through the duration of the federal government shutdown. New information will be noted in yellow highlight. If urgent updates arise before each Friday, we will communicate them as needed.

At this time, no NCDHHS employees will be furloughed before Wednesday, October 22, at the earliest. We are actively monitoring guidance from federal agencies and assessing available resources to maintain essential services.

We remain committed to minimizing disruptions and will continue to keep you informed as the situation evolves.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in serving North Carolinians.

Sincerely,

Carla West

As of 10/17/2025

DHHS-DSS Business Operations/Business Information Guidance - Federal Government Shutdown

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to ensure that county DSS receive timely guidance on program implementation during the FFY26 Federal Government Shutdown. Regular updates to the information and guidance will be provided as this remains an evolving event.

Guidance for Business/Fiscal Operations

ADULT SERVICES- Adult Protective Services/Guardianship

NCDHHS has not been advised of any delay in drawing down federal funds. The NCDHHS Controller's Office will continue to monitor this closely. If draws can be successfully submitted, APS and Guardianship funding will continue operating as normal. Updates will be provided as new information becomes available.

AGING

Based on previous shutdown experiences and guidance from our national partner, Advancing States, States should be able to draw down previously allocated Older Americans Act (OAA) funding through the Payment Management Services (PMS) system; however, no new funding will be added to a state's balance during a shutdown. So, if the NCDHHS Controller's office is able to submit draws, NCDHHS will be able to reimburse for September services. Though we do not anticipate an issue with drawing for September services, we are working in unprecedented times. For services starting October 1, we will use available grant balances until they are depleted. The length of time will depend on the number of services invoiced for, which can vary month to month. We are checking updated balances and will provide an estimated timeframe based on average monthly spend. Our team is working on our estimations now. We will monitor balances throughout the shutdown so that we can provide advanced guidance to COGs/AAAs in the event any services need to be stopped due to lack of funding.
Response

Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) - FNS has confirmed that the Treasury ASAP letter of credit system (LOC) will continue to operate, and all State agencies will be able to draw normally from their FY 2025 LOC for FY 2025 expenditures over the course of the Federal lapse.

As of 10/17, the state continues to successfully draw down previously allocated Older Americans Act (OAA) funding through the Payment Management Services (PMS) system.

We will continue to use existing grant balances until they are fully expended. As mentioned earlier, the rate at which these funds are used depends on the number of services invoiced for, which can vary month to month. Based on current spending patterns, we anticipate that funding will remain sufficient at least through November services paid in December, however we will be watching the spending that comes in for October Services paid in November and will notify Area Agencies on Aging immediately if there are any needed changes. Please be assured that we will communicate proactively should any adjustments become necessary.

In the meantime, based on our current balances, services **can continue as usual**, and we appreciate everyone's continued dedication to supporting older adults and people with disabilities across North Carolina.

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

As of October 1st, DCDEE has not been advised that there will be a delay in drawing down federal funds for child care subsidy. If the NCDHHS Controller's Office is able to successfully submit draws, DCDEE will be able to reimburse for September services as typical. The next federal draw will be in mid-October. DCDEE will provide updates after the draw has been requested or sooner if new information becomes available.

10/17 - No new updates or additional guidance

CHILD SUPPORT

NCDHHS has not been given formal guidance from the federal Office of Child Support Services regarding impacts the state may see in the child support program. We do know that the federal staff have NOT been furloughed, and the federal Office of Child Support Services is available to provide support as needed.
Update 10/3: OCSS remains operational, but you may experience delays associated with processes that require OCSS collaboration with other ACF offices.

10-9 No new updates or additional guidance

10/17- No new updates or additional guidance

CHILD WELFARE

NCDHHS has received notification from the Administration for Children and Families that for grantee awards received prior to 10/1/25, funding should remain accessible during shutdown. Business operations will continue, and the payment management system remains operational for processing drawdown requests.

At the same time, the furlough of federal staff means there will be limited access to assistance if questions or problems arise. For example, if there are awards with restrictive terms or conditions - or if a drawdown triggers the payment management system edit checks or the drawdown limits controls - those funds may not be able to be drawn down.

NCDHHS will share additional information with agencies as we continue to learn more about the impact of the federal shutdown on Child Welfare Services.

10/17- No new updates or additional guidance

As of 10/17/2025

DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES (DDS)

Social Security Administration Field Offices remain open, these staff are exempted from the federal shutdown. The Social Security Administration (SSA) has confirmed that payments to all people currently receiving Social Security benefits, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI) will continue with no change in payment dates. People will still receive the payments on time.

10/9- No new updates or additional guidance

EMPLOYMENT AND INDEPENDENCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (EIPD)

All programs within EIPD had received notices of approved federal funding for the year prior to October 1, 2025. EIPD has not been advised that there will be a delay in drawing down federal funds. NCDHHS Controller's Office will continue to monitor this and if we continue to successfully submit draws, EIPD will continue business as normal – including vocational rehabilitation, NC Assistive Technology Program, and other programs. EIPD will provide updates as new information becomes available.

10/9- No new updates or additional guidance
10/17- No new updates or additional guidance. EIPD continues successful draws of approved funding and continues with business as normal.

ENERGY

NCDHHS has received notification from Office of Community Services/Administration for Children and Families that the state will be able to continue drawing funds from prior year funding awards that were received prior to the federal shut down as long as those funds remain available. Business operations will continue, and the payment management system (PMS) will remain operational to process drawdown requests so that payments can be made for our program.

At the same time, the furlough of federal staff means there will be limited access for technical assistance if questions or problems should arise. For example, if there are awards with restrictive terms and conditions, or if the drawdown request triggers one of the PMS edit checks and/or drawdown limit controls, we may not be able to draw down those funds.

NCDHHS will share additional information with agencies as we continue to monitor and learn more about the impact of the federal shutdown on LIHEAP Block Grant services

10/17 - We're pleased to announce that Auto LIEAP will once again move forward this year, providing a one-time heating assistance payment to support some of our most vulnerable residents. This initiative plays a vital role in helping older adults and individuals with disabilities stay safe and warm during the colder months.

This year's Auto LIEAP is funded exclusively through carryforward funds from FFY-25. Each county has received an allocation sufficient to cover the anticipated costs of these automatic payments.

As of 10/17/2025

However, due to the ongoing federal government shutdown and the absence of an approved federal budget, we have not yet received our FFY-26 LIHEAP Block Grant award. As a result, no additional funding is currently available to accept or process LIEAP applications outside of the Auto LIEAP process.

We are actively monitoring the situation and remain hopeful. The application period for the priority group is scheduled to begin on December 1, 2025. If the federal budget is passed and funding is released in time, we are fully prepared to launch the broader LIEAP program without delay. Our team continues to plan and prepare so we can act swiftly and efficiently once funds become available.

We sincerely appreciate your continued partnership, patience, and dedication as we navigate this uncertainty together. We will keep you informed with any updates regarding the LIEAP program. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or need additional information.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES – SNAP

10/17 - A Dear County Directors Letter was sent to counties on 16 October 2025: https://www.ncdhhs.gov/efs-fnsep-17-2025/download?attachment.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has notified state agencies that currently available funds are not sufficient to ensure full issuance of November 2025 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for households nationwide, including approximately 1.4 million North Carolinians who receive Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) benefits. On October 10, 2025, USDA directed states to hold November 2025 issuance files to preserve maximum flexibility while it evaluates contingency options. In compliance with this directive, NC FAST will delay transmission of November 2025 issuance files to the State Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) contractor, Fidelity Insurance Services (FIS), until further direction from USDA.

USDA has indicated it is conducting fact-finding and information gathering to prepare for a potential contingency plan. NCDHHS is currently waiting for guidance from USDA to assess any impact to November FNS benefits for North Carolinians. In addition, USDA has not yet issued guidance regarding administrative cost coverage beyond October 2025. When additional guidance is received, NCDHHS will provide updates accordingly.

October FNS benefits have not been impacted. North Carolina households have received their October benefits as usual with regular October issuances continuing on normal issuance timelines. Any households newly approved during October will also receive their October benefits. NCDHHS will continue to issue benefit entitlements obligated for October 2025, regardless of whether the October 2025 applications are processed and approved after October 31st.

All counties must continue normal operations for application processing, including expedited service, and complete recertifications in compliance with federal and state policies, including application processing timeframes. This guidance does not change eligibility, verification, or reporting requirements.

As of 10/17/2025

NC MEDICAID

NCDHHS has received notice from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) they will continue operations during a lapse in appropriations. Other non-discretionary activities including Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control and Center (HCFAC) for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) activities will also continue. CMS will have sufficient funding for Medicaid to fund the first quarter of FY 2026, based on the advance appropriation provided for in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025. CMS will also continue Federal Marketplace activities, such as eligibility verification, using Federal Marketplace user fee carryover. NCDHHS will continue to monitor impacts on Medicaid including systems and processes that may be needed to administer the program.

PATH NC

Roll out for R5 counties is scheduled to continue on Monday, October 6th, with R6 counties to follow on Monday, November 3rd. Ongoing Case Management rollout is scheduled to begin in February 2026 and continue through September 2026.

Currently, PATH NC relies primarily on State appropriations with some federal revenue from Title IV-E. It is not currently anticipated that there will be disruptions with Title IV-E reimbursements. PATH NC rollout will continue as planned.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

NCDHHS has received notification from Office of Community Services/Administration for Children and Families that the state will be able to continue drawing funds from prior year funding awards that were received prior to the federal shut down as long as those funds remain available. Business operations will continue, and the payment management system (PMS) will remain operational to process drawdown requests so that payments can be made for our program.

At the same time, the furlough of federal staff means there will be limited access for technical assistance if questions or problems should arise. For example, if there are awards with restrictive terms and conditions, or if the drawdown request triggers one of the PMS edit checks and/or drawdown limit controls, we may not be able to draw down those funds.

NCDHHS will share additional information with agencies as we continue to monitor and learn more about the impact of the federal shutdown on TANF services.

10/17 - we are monitoring closely – at this time we have been able to cover payments to recipients in October and November and county admin costs for September paid in October. If there are any changes to funding availability, we will notify you immediately.

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	100.00%	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	100.00%	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	100.00%	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	100.00%	December		March		June	
QTR Average	**99.33%**	**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	98.78%	December		March		June	
QTR Average	**99.59%**	**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	100.00%	December		March		June	
QTR Average	**99.64%**	**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	100.00%	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%

Child Welfare

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	10@100%	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	1@100%	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	0.00%	December		March		June			
QTR Average	**67%**	**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	95.03%	December	March	June
QTR Average	**93.28%**	**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	92.27%	December	March	June
QTR Average	**92.69%**	**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	66.02%	December	March	June
QTR Average	**67.13%**	**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	48.18%	December	March	June
QTR Average	**41.48%**	**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 .

Board Report

Service Month: September 2025

Budget

	Sep-25	% of Budget	Sep-24	% of Budget
Total Revenues (YTD)	$823,451.92	19.1%	$947,829.85	20.1%
Total Expenses (YTD)	$4,611,463.87	45.4%	$4,420,196.40	39.8%
Expenses without settlement	$1,682,892.44	19.5%	$1,491,624.97	16.9%

Services

Child Welfare	**Sep-25**	**Current -YTD**	**Calendar Year Sep-24**	**Current -YTD**
# of Child Abuse Reports Received	45	327	28	297
# of Screened In Reports	21	168	18	185
# of Screened out Reports	24	159	10	100
# of Other County Assists	7		1	
# of Open Assessments on last day of month	23		30	
# of Open In-Home (Case Mgmt.) Services Cases	3		6	
# of Children Entered Into Legal Custody	2	22	0	12
# of Children Left Custody	1	29	1	16
# of Children In Legal Custody	32		38	
# of Children Placed With Relatives	7		10	
# of Children Placed in Foster Homes/Other Placements	23		23	
# of Foster Care 18-21	2		5	
# of Licensed Foster Homes	10		12	
# of Agency Adoptions Completed	1	18	0	12
# of Non-Agency Adoptions Completed	3	6	0	3
# of Infants Affected by Substance Abuse	1	12	0	8
# of Child Family Team Meetings	28		6	

Adult Services	**Sep-25**	**Current CY-YTD**	**Sep-24**	**Current CY-YTD**
# of Adult Protective Services Reports	23	176	18	155
# of APS Reports Accepted for Evaluation	13	91	6	66
# of Representative Payees	18		20	
# of Current Guardianship Cases	22		21	
# of Adult Care Homes	3		3	
# of Medicaid Transportation Clients	112		119	
# of Transit, L&N and Client reimbursed Trips	136	870	278	1,450

Child Support Enforcement	**Sep-25**	**Current-YTD**	**Fiscal Year Sep-24**	**Current-YTD**
# of Active Cases	570	570	566	566
# of Paternity	1	6	0	9
CS Orders Established	7	25	4	18
# of Modifications Completed	0	10	1	1
# of Enforcement Actions Completed	30	94	40	147
Amount of Collections	$95,438.34	$279,775.83	$82,743.04	$235,945.80
Arrears — Total Outstanding	**$2,863,172.91**	**Collected FY-YTD Arrears**		**$67,481.98**
Inherited Arrears	**$761,013.88**			
Outstanding Purge Amounts	**$239,008.54**			

Economic Services	**Sep-25**	**Calendar Year YTD**	**Sep-24**	**Calendar Year YTD**
# of Medicaid/Special Assistance Appl Taken	245	2140	204	1869
# of Medicaid/SA Recerts completed	293	4132	419	4676
# of Medicaid Participants	10,772		10,972	
# of Special Assistance Participants	38		59	
# of TANF Participants	7		10	
# of FNS Applications (applications denied)	186 (38)	1425 (373)	193 (51)	1697 (465)
# of FNS Recerts completed	196	1619	205	1684
# of FNS Benefits Paid	$ 702,383.00	$ 6,034,835.00	$678,791.00	$5,938,651.00
# of FNS Households	2242		2,345	
Fraud Collections	$193.00	$820.00	$194.00	$4,455.00
# of Day Care Recipients	127		157	
# 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	20	179	8	139
CRISIS Benefits Paid	$3,569.02	$42,478.98	$1,768.76	$29,112.11

Personnel

Vacancies/Hires/Terminations for September 2025

New Hires	1
New Hire Orientations Completed	0
Interagency Transfers	0
Separations	0
Promotion or Work/Against	1

Vacancies
(9) as of September 30, 2025

Reason for Separation: ( ) Retirement; ( ) Relocation; ( ) Dismissal ( ) Resignation

Length of Service: ( ) Less than 2 yrs.; ( ) 2-5 years; ( ) 5-10 years; ( ) over 10 years

Cherokee County DSS – Staff Turnover Report
Period: July – September 2025

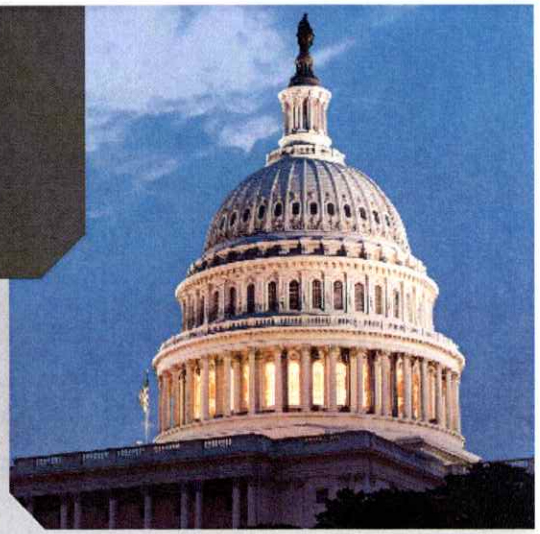
Department / Unit	**Turnover Rate**
Income Maintenance & Child Support	2.9%
Social Work Services	8.3%
Administration	0%
Overall Agency	**5%**

Data provided by Mandi Amos, County HR Director.

APHSA
American Public Human Services Association

Effective 10/1/2025

APHSA Update:
Potential Impacts of a Federal Government Shutdown



This memo outlines anticipated impacts on state and local human services programs if a federal shutdown begins on October 1, 2025. Impacts vary by funding type—mandatory programs generally continue, while discretionary programs pause until appropriations resume. **Please note that it is possible this shutdown will proceed differently than past shutdowns, so this information is based on our best understanding to date. HHS issued a contingency plan that can be found on their website and FNS has shared a memo. We will update this chart as additional guidance is issued.**

Program	Funding Type	What Continues	What Pauses/Slows	Immediate Actions
Child Care (CCDF)	Mixed: The Child Care Entitlement to States (CCES) is mandatory, while the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) is discretionary.	Mandatory funds from CCES payments and existing balances can still be drawn through the Payment Management System (PMS). These funds typically account for about one-quarter of total CCDF funding in recent years. States may continue using carryover balances-both state and federal-as well as state investments to make provider payments. Overall, most states appear to be in good financial shape, with sufficient carryover funds to temporarily maintain operations.	Discretionary CCDF funds (which depend on annual appropriations) may be delayed or inaccessible until the federal budget is finalized. Quarterly disbursements of FY2026 CCDF awards, along with some contracts, monitoring, and technical assistance activities, are likely paused. Administrative disruptions may delay access to or distribution of available funds.	Assess available CCDF carryover and state funds to maintain stability. Plan for possible delays in new FY2026 discretionary disbursements. Communicate with providers proactively about potential payment delays, depending on how long the disruption lasts and the level of existing funds.
TANF	Mandatory Block Grant (Capped)	State TANF benefits distribution and services continue using available funds but new funds will not be available during a shutdown; most states can continue programs undisturbed for one month; in the past, PMS processing has remained operational during a shutdown, though whether that will remain true is unknown	Federal oversight, TA, and new actions requiring appropriations pause. Should a shutdown be prolonged beyond one month, some state TANF program operations will be threatened; extent of impact dependent on length of shutdown.	Monitor cash on hand & MOE; prepare to bridge with state funds if processing slows.

Potential Impacts of a Federal Government Shutdown

Effective 10/1/2025

Program	Funding Type	What Continues	What Pauses/Slows	Immediate Actions
SNAP E&T	Mandatory (reimbursable)	SNAP E&T continues with previously awarded funding or state funds.	Federal funding should continue to flow as normal for the month of October. If a shutdown continues, states may need to carry additional funding to be reimbursed later.	Track unreimbursed state costs; document for later claiming.
SNAP Benefits	Mandatory (with contingency resources)	SNAP benefits and administrative costs should continue as normal for October. Some core designated staff and at least the Regional Administrator in each region will continue to work. Others will be put on furlough.	In a letter from Oct 10, FNS confirmed that there is not enough funding for November benefits if a shutdown continues, and they directed state agencies to hold their files and not send them to EBT processors without further guidance. We expect FNS will share more guidance later in the month about next steps. SNAP administrative costs and other programs can continue to be spent and reimbursed later.	For now, states should continue to work as normal but hold their November EBT files. States may need to begin thinking through potential communication plans for customers and other partners.
Child Welfare – Title IV-E (Read latest memo sent by ACF here)	Mandatory	Payments to states for eligible costs continue. Funding was provided through the first quarter of FY2026 in the Continuing Resolution for FY2025. PMS should remain operational.	Federal staffing support is minimal; slower response to inquiries and slower reimbursements, could cause cash flow stress.	Ensure provider cash flow for placements; keep IV-E claiming documentation current.
Child Welfare – Title IV-B (Read latest memo sent by ACF here)	Mixed: Discretionary (Subparts 1 & 2) and Mandatory (parts of subpart 2)	Mandatory portions of PPSF funding continue, and carryover can also be used.	New FY2026 awards and grant actions delayed for subpart 1 (Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services), subpart 2 (Promoting Safe and Stable Families) and the Court Improvement Program; monitoring and TA paused.	Maintain services with state funds where possible; prepare to reconcile later.

Potential Impacts of a Federal Government Shutdown

Effective 10/1/2025

Program	Funding Type	What Continues	What Pauses/Slows	Immediate Actions
SSBG	Discretionary	States may use unobligated prior-year balances if available.	No new FY2026 SSBG allocations will be issued until appropriations resume. Federal oversight, reporting support, and technical assistance pause. States without significant carryover could face immediate disruptions to SSBG-funded services.	Inventory unobligated balances; identify essential services supported by SSBG (e.g., protective services, case management, adult/child day care) and plan for temporary state funding or service prioritization if the shutdown extends.
LIHEAP	Discretionary	States may use up to 10% of unobligated prior-year balances or previously released contingency funds if available.	New FY2026 block grant awards would be delayed until appropriations resume; administrative support from HHS pauses.	Assess carryover balances; prepare to delay program openings or bridge with state funds during the upcoming heating season.
Child Support	Mandatory	Program receives advanced funding for the first quarter of FY2026.		IV-D Administrators received the following message from OCSS: *"We want to let you know that this year's Quarter 1 awards, normally released on October 1, will be delayed. We now expect them to be issued on or after October 10, 2025."*
Medicaid	Mandatory	Medicaid is advance funded on a quarterly basis-- States receive federal advance funds based on estimated costs, with adjustments made later to reconcile against actual expenditures. Generally, Medicaid is a mandatory spending program, meaning that funds do not need to be appropriated by Congress each year. This means that, in the event of a shutdown, federal match (FMAP) would not be impacted. Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Allotments are mandatory and are not impacted by the appropriations process.	Although some CMS staff would be furloughed, most would be deemed essential personnel. Generally, CMCS staff will be able to continue routine communications with state Medicaid leaders, this includes staff working on the Rural Health Transformation program. However, other CMCS staff, such as those working on CHIP and the Basic Health Program, would be furloughed.	