



**Joint Legislative Oversight Committee  
on Health and Human Services  
March 8, 2016**

**Department of Health and Human Services  
[Expanding Foster Care Services to Age 21]**



# N.C. Session Law

- **North Carolina Session Law 2015-214** requires the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, to develop a plan for the expansion of foster care services for individuals who have attained the age of 18 years old and opt to continue receiving foster care services until reaching 21 years of age.



# Federal Law

- **P.L. 110-351, Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, provides states with the option to continue providing Title IV-E reimbursable foster care and guardianship assistance payments to children up to the age of 21.**



# Eligibility Requirements for Foster Care to 21

- An individual who has attained the age of 18 years and chooses to continue receiving foster care may enter into a voluntary placement agreement until the age of 21 years if the individual is:
- Completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential;
- Enrolled in an institution which provides post-secondary or vocational education;
- Participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment;
- Employed for at least 80 hours per month; or
- Incapable of doing any of the above referenced due to a medical condition or disability.



# Implementation Activities

- Completed the draft proposed amendments to administrative rules in 10A NCAC 70B and 10A NCAC 70M (scheduled for review by the Social Services Commission at the April meeting)
- Updating the county Child Welfare Services Policy Manuals
- Providing technical changes, timelines, and costs for the Child Placement Payment System and NC FAST to the Division of Information Technology



# Implementation Activities cont.

- **Communication strategies for stakeholders (counties and private agencies)**
- **Applications have been received and interviews are being scheduled for Fostering Success Program Coordinator (projected hire date 6/1/2016)**
- **Will be submitting a Title IV-E State Plan Amendment to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families for approval to draw down federal funds**



# Questions