



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH
SECRETARY

May 1, 2019

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Joyce Krawiec, Chair
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
Health and Human Services
North Carolina General Assembly
Room 308, Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603

The Honorable Josh Dobson, Chair
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
Health and Human Services
North Carolina General Assembly
Room 307B, Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603

The Honorable Donny Lambeth, Chair
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
Health and Human Services
North Carolina General Assembly
Room 303, Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Chairmen:

Session Law 2017-57, Section 11C.14.(a), requires the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, to report on the use of additional funds provided in this act to provide continued support of the Eckerd Kids and Caring for Children's Angel Watch program. This report is due to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division. Pursuant to the provisions of law, the Department is pleased to submit the attached report.

Should you have any questions, please contact Michael Becketts, Senior Director, Policy and Planning, at Michael.Becketts@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Mandy Cohen, MD, MPH
Secretary

cc:	Michael Becketts	Marjorie Donaldson	Katherine Restrepo	Theresa Matula
	Rob Kindsvatter	Joyce Jones	Susan Perry-Manning	Matt Gross
	Deborah Landry	Lisa Wilks	Erin Matteson	Zack Wortman
	reports@ncleg.net	Tara Myers	Mark Benton	Mark Collins
	Steve Owen	Jessica Meed	Denise Thomas	

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SECRETARY

May 1, 2019

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Mark Trogdon, Director
Fiscal Research Division
Suite 619, Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Dear Director Trogdon:

Session Law 2017-57, Section 11C.14.(a), requires the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, to report on the use of additional funds provided in this act to provide continued support of the Eckerd Kids and Caring for Children's Angel Watch program. This report is due to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division. Pursuant to the provisions of law, the Department is pleased to submit the attached report.

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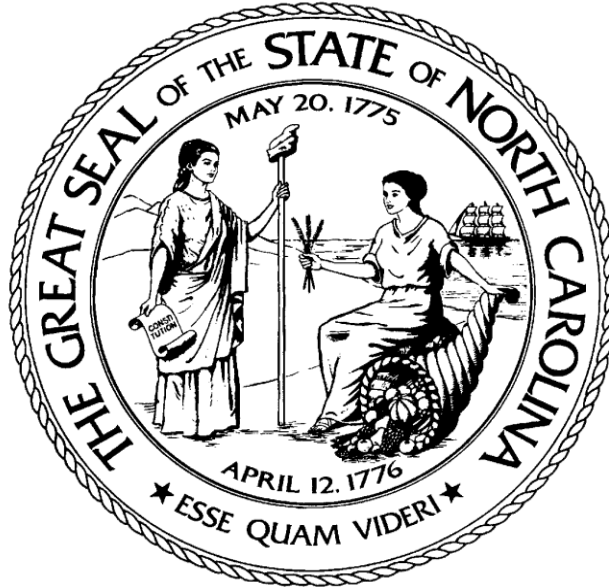
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**Eckerd Kids and Caring for
Children's Angel Watch Program**

Session Law 2017-57, Section 11C.14



Report to the

**Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and
Human Services**

and

Fiscal Research Division

by

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

May 1, 2019

Legislative Requirement

Pursuant to Session Law 2017-57, Section 11C.14.(a), The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services is required to report on the use of additional funds provided for each year of the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium to provide continued support of the Eckerd Kids and Caring for Children's Angel Watch program.

ECKERD KIDS AND CARING FOR CHILDREN'S ANGEL WATCH PROGRAM/REPORT ON USE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS

Section 11C.14.(a) The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, shall report on the use of additional funds provided in this act for each year of the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium to provide continued support of the Eckerd Kids and Caring for Children's Angel Watch program, a foster care program for children who are ages zero to 10 who are not in the custody of a county department of social services and whose families are temporarily unable to care for them due to a crisis. The report shall, at a minimum, include each of the following:

- (1) The number of families and children served by the program, including the counties in which services are provided.
- (2) The number of children who enter foster care within six months after their family participates in the program.
- (3) A comparison of children with similar needs that do not participate in the program and the number of those children who enter into foster care.
- (4) Any other matters the Division deems relevant.

Section 11C.14.(b) The Division shall submit the report required by subsection (a) of this section to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division by December 1, 2018.

Section 11C.14.(c) G.S. 143C-1-2(b) shall not apply to funds appropriated for the 2016-2017 fiscal year for Eckerd Kids and Caring for Children's Angel Watch program.

Background

The purpose of this program is to recruit and train Angels Watch families to provide family support services and temporary placement in order to prevent child abuse, neglect and involvement with child protective services. The original appropriation was for \$1.1 million non-reoccurring funds for FY 17. The state then appropriated \$500,000 per fiscal year for two years (FY 18 and FY 19) for the program to continue on a smaller scale.

The Number of Families and Children Served by the Program, Including the Counties in Which Services were Provided.

There are two regions that serve children in clusters of counties. The first region is centered in Mecklenburg County and served 70 children from Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Stanly, and Union counties. The second region is centered in Buncombe County and served 25 children from Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Watauga, and Yancey counties. See Table 1 for a count of children and families served by county.

Table 1: Children and Families served by County

County	Children	Families
Buncombe	22	14
Gaston	9	5
Haywood	1	1
Henderson	2	1
Lincoln	2	1
Mecklenburg	58	38
Stanly	1	1
TOTAL	95	61

The Number of Children Entering Foster Care Within Six Months of Participation in the Program.

The program served 95 children between December 2017 and December 2018. Ten referrals were rejected due to age of the child. From December 2017 to December 2018, only three children served by this program have entered into foster care.

A Comparison of Children with Similar Needs that Do Not Participate in the Program and the Number of those Children Who Enter Into Foster Care.

In comparison, looking at all children in the State's foster care system for at least one day during SFY 2017-18, there were 5,035 children age 6 or under who had at least one sibling who was 10 years old or younger.

Additional Relevant Information

- Angels Watch reported that they licensed and trained 17 new homes statewide. In addition, Angels Watch utilized other child placing agencies and subcontracted beds to include Children's Hope Alliance, Lutheran Family Ministries, Life Opportunities, etc.
- Angels Watch reported 100% compliance, as evidenced by notes in client records, with the following services: Admission Assessments, Discharge Assessments, Home Visits, Family Referrals and Case Closures documentation.
- Angels Watch reported 100% compliance, as evidenced by notes in client records, with the following objectives: helping parents/guardians in crisis to promote effective coping, teaching new or more effective coping behaviors, providing a safe and stable environment for children during their stay in Angel's Watch homes, providing the necessary tools and resources to parents/guardians so children can return to a safe and stable environment, increasing parents/guardians skills and knowledge of child development.
- Angels Watch reported 100% compliance, as evidenced by notes in client records, with the following Results: 90% of children will be discharged within 90 days, 98% of monthly foster home visits will be conducted face-to-face, 100% served will be children who are age 0-10 who are not in the custody of the Department of Social Services and whose families are temporarily unable to care for them because of a crisis.