

Buncombe County Agenda Item Information Sheet

AGENDA ITEM: Budget Amendment for Adoption Promotion program (Buncombe County Health & Human Services – Social Services).	
MEETING DATE: April 5, 2016	
REQUESTED BY: Jennifer Chilton for Amanda L. Stone	
Background information The State Division of Health and Human Services makes available funds to enhance and expand adoption programs, to secure permanent homes for hard to place children, and to encourage partnerships between public and private agencies to achieve permanency for children in a timely manner by providing incentives for the adoption of special needs children. Agencies are compensated for adoption services that culminate in the finalization of an adoption. These services include: recruitment of adoptive family, pre-adoption training, post placement support and the facilitation of legal procedures resulting in issuance of a decree of adoption. Counties must reach their designated baseline before they are eligible for these incentive funds with the exception of the adoptions of youth 13 to 18 years of age for which reimbursement is available regardless of meeting the baseline.	
Pro's Funds may be used for the direct provision or purchase by contract of services of Adoption Services, Adoption Recruitment, Adoption Assistance Case Management, Child-Specific Recruitment, Assessment, Training of Adoptive Parents, and Post Adoption Case Management. Funds can be used for legal or court related services to expedite the adoption process, for post-adoption services and for child-specific recruitment efforts.	Con's None
Funds required No County funds are required. Federal share is 100%.	
Alternatives Without this incentive fund, our Agency would need to utilize county resources to enhance the adoption program and to strive for timely permanence for children that are available for adoption.	
Action recommended: Allocate \$204,000 in additional Adoption Promotion funds received from the federal government for enhancing the adoption services program.	