DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: 2010-2011 TANF/DV PLAN AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The purpose of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families/Domestic Violence (TANF/DV) fund is to provide direct services to eligible clients and their children to promote safety and economic stability. Utilizing TANF/DV funds requires a written agreed plan between the county department of social services (DSS) and local domestic violence agency. Child Welfare and Work First policy on responding to domestic violence cases recommends that county DSS create a MOU with community agencies including local domestic violence (DV) agencies. Convening a meeting with the DV agency involving DSS staff with specific knowledge of child welfare and Work First is a wonderful opportunity to inform a written plan and MOU describing how all will work together to improve the outcomes of the families served.

Attached are Guidelines for appropriating TANF/DV funds. The list of expenditures noted in the Guidelines is not exclusive. Any appropriate expenditure that DSS and the DV agency agree on that will promote safety and economic stability for clients and children can be allowed as long as it falls within TANF Guidelines.

Also attached is a Sample TANF/DV and MOU combined plan. This serves as a guide to address not only the process and agreed use of the TANF funds but also contains several pertinent MOU strategies that highlight successful collaboration between the county DSS and the DV agency. A list of optional MOU strategies to consider is attached that all parties may discuss to include in the combined TANF/DV Plan and MOU if agreed as appropriate. All MOU strategies were developed collaboratively within the Domestic Violence and Child Welfare Committee consisting of the Division of Social Services, NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, NC Council for Women, University partners, providers of service, and county DSS.

Counties are encouraged to be innovative in determining how to meet the needs of families. Please share the TANF/DV Plan and MOU information with staff at all levels including child welfare and Work First program staff in order to seek feedback as to any identified strengths to build on, needs to improve, as well as a means to provide some awareness of the fund and collaboration efforts.

The Plan must be received by August 30, 2010.

The Division of Social Services and the NC Council for Women will review the Plans and provide consultation and technical assistance to DSS and local DV agencies if needed. The NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence is also a resource for technical assistance or training and can be reached at www.nccadv.org or 888-232-9124. The 2010-2011 TANF/DV funding allocation for each county is attached. The Division anticipates authorizing TANF/DV funding for all counties by October 1, 2010 after the final draft TANF/DV Plan is received and reviewed.

If submitting hard copies (one original signed in blue ink and one copy), it must be signed by the Director or the Director’s designee in blue ink for both the DSS and the DV agency. An alternative option is to submit a soft copy with an electronic signature by both agencies is sufficient.
Please submit the 2010-2011 TANF/DV Plan by **August 30, 2010** to:

(MAILING ADDRESS)
North Carolina Division of Social Services
Child Welfare Services
Attn: Rick Zechman
2410 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC  27699-2410

(DELIVERY ADDRESS for UPS, FEDEX & DHL)
North Carolina Division of Social Services Child Welfare Services
Attn: Rick Zechman
325 N. Salisbury Ste. 779
Raleigh, NC 27603

Email: eric.zechman@dhhs.nc.gov

Any questions regarding the TANF/DV Plan and information in this letter should be directed to Rick Zechman via email at eric.zechman@dhhs.nc.gov or by phone at (919) 334-1108.

Sincerely,

Charisse S. Johnson, Chief
Child Welfare Services

Dean Simpson, Chief
Economic & Family Services Section

Jill Dinwiddie, Executive Director
NC Council for Women

April Burgess-Johnson & Beth Froehling
Co Executive Directors
NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Attachments:
Sample TANF/Domestic Violence Plan and MOU
Guidelines for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families/Domestic Violence Funds
Sample Optional MOU Strategies
SFY 2011 TANF/DV Allocation Worksheet

cc: Sherry Bradsher
Jack Rogers
Sarah Barham
Dean Simpson
Hank Bowers
Domestic Violence Agencies
NC Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission
NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Children’s Program Representatives
Work First Program Consultants
Local Business Liaisons

CWS-16-10