

North Carolina Dept. of Health and Human Services
Division of Social Services

**First Notice to Work First Families with
Two Adult Recipients Able to Work**

Date
Payee Name
Full Address

The purpose of this notice is to tell you about a major change that is going to happen in the Work First Program for families with two adult recipients able to work. The change affects how and when you will receive your Work First check.

Beginning March 1998, you will not receive your monthly check unless you are working or participating in a work activity at least 140 hours each month. If your family receives federally-funded child care assistance, your required number of hours may be 220. If you have worked the correct number of hours, or have completed the correct number of hours in a work activity during a month, your check for that month will be mailed within five (5) days of giving proof of your hours to social services. Your worker at the county department of social services will explain to you the specific requirements for your family. This change does not affect Medicaid. You will continue to receive Medicaid as long as you meet the eligibility requirements.

EXAMPLE: During March you work 145 hours. You give proof of this to your worker on April 2. Your March Work First check will be mailed by April 9.

The goal of the Work First Program is to help adults go to work so that they can support their children. Since Work First was implemented in 1995, over 45,000 families have gone to work and left the welfare rolls. For some families, parents may do other very short-term activities while they are looking for a job. These may include activities such as skills training and unpaid work.

Your worker at the county department of social services will meet with you soon to talk about this requirement. Your worker will work with you on a plan to find a job or participate in another activity while you are looking for work.

This is a major change in the Work First Program. We want all families to be successful. So, if you have not heard from your worker at social services, please call your worker as soon as possible to set up an appointment so that you and your family will be ready for this change

You will receive another notice in February from the State Division of Social Services with more information about this change. You may call the Work First toll-free number for additional information. That number is 1-800-724-0583.