

# SUPPORT CHILDREN'S HOMES THAT SUPPORT OUR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE!

## Background:

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Children's Homes have served NC's foster children and families for over 100 years providing an alternative family placement for children in cottages on a campus for:



Children with multiple failed foster placements



Sibling groups when a foster home can't be found to take them together



Youth at risk of aging out of care



Youth at risk of sex trafficking



Pregnant and parenting teens



Emergency placements of foster youth

Without Children's Homes, there is substantial risk that many of these children will enter more restrictive, costly, clinical environments. These homes allow children to live in a family environment, but with more structure in place through campus supports. They go well beyond their license requirements to offer job training, assist youth in securing a driver's license, help them get into college or a trade school and provide them a home to come back to during holiday and summer breaks.

Children's Homes contribute over \$54 Million a year through fundraising and private donors to go above and beyond to serve the children in their care. These are much needed placements for children who need an alternative to traditional foster care.

## Transition Plan

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**Children's Homes will be impacted by the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).**

FFPSA is a federal law, effective October 2021, that limits child welfare funding (known as IV-E funding) for children placed in residential settings to two weeks maximum. Children can stay in the placement beyond the two weeks, but the federal funds to pay for the placement must be offset by county and/or state dollars.

The intent of the Family First Act was to limit residential placements and attempt to place every child with a "family." Unfortunately, foster family placement is not an option for all children. The funding impact of FFPSA puts all these Children's Homes at risk and could eliminate an important component of the continuum of care needed for children who come into foster care.

## Proposed Legislative Bridge Funding

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- Funding to cover the full IV-E loss in FY 21/22 and 50% of the loss in FY 22/23
  - FY 21/22: \$5.5 million - 100% of county share of lost federal IV-E revenue for congregate care
  - FY 22/23: \$6 million - 50% of county share of lost federal IV-E revenue for congregate care

We are requesting the legislature allocate funding to offset the loss of IV-E dollars due to the implementation of FFPSA effective October 2021.

## Examples of NC's Children's Homes

American Children's Home

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina

Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth, and Families

Boys & Girls Homes of North Carolina

Children's Home of Cleveland County

Children's Hope Alliance

Crossnore School & Children's Home

Falcon Children's Home and Family Services

Free Will Baptist Children's Home

Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

Nazareth Child and Family Connection

Southmountain Children and Family Services

