### PROVISIONS REQUESTED BY THE CHILD ADVOCACY NETWORK VS. ENACTED IN THE COVID-19 RECOVERY ACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHILD ADVOCACY NETWORK ASK</th>
<th>COVID-19 RECOVERY ACT</th>
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<td><strong>MEDICAID</strong></td>
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<td>Expand Medicaid to cover North Carolina’s uninsured.</td>
<td>Temporary Medicaid coverage for COVID-19 testing for the uninsured during the nationwide emergency period wherein the FMAP is 100%. No coverage for treatment. <em>This authorizes what is made allowable in the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act.</em></td>
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<td>Direct NCDHHS to ensure uninterrupted healthcare access for children on NC Health Choice.</td>
<td>Temporary 5% increase in fee-for-service Medicaid rates.</td>
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<td><em>NC DHHS enacted this item through administrative action.</em></td>
<td>- Applies to providers who did not receive a 5% rate increase in the 1135 Medicaid disaster relief State Plan Amendment previously submitted by NCDHHS to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.</td>
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<td><strong>$50 M</strong> to rural and underserved communities especially hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The flexible funds will support health provider grants, targeted Medicaid assistance for rural hardship grants to non-hospital providers, enhanced Telehealth services, transportation for critical services, health care security for the uninsured, the Office of Minority Health, and related items.</td>
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*Not addressed:*

Direct NCDHHS to request a merger of NC Health Choice and NC Medicaid via CMS waiver.
## Child Care

$125 M to a Child Care Emergency Economic Support Package to include an emergency fund for child care programs opened as essential child care sites as well as emergency grants for child care programs that closed during the Stay-at-Home Order or reopen within 30 days after the Order is lifted.

No details are available on how much of this funding will be used for child care response, specifically.

Priority antibody tests (as available) to front-line care providers, including child care providers and other persons essential to the provision of medical care, dental care, long-term care, or child care.

Temporary waiver of three-year fingerprinting requirement for current child care providers.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) Strategic State Stockpile plan to include access for child care providers along with other first responders.

## Technology Infrastructure

Allocate funding for NCDHHS to strengthen the online application process for public benefit programs.
- Upgrade NC FAST system
- Upgrade NCCARE360 to integrate referral services

NCCARE360 and “technology modifications to support emergency relief beneficiaries” are included in the $19M catch-all category described above. No details are available on how much of this funding will be used for NCCARE360 and/or NC FAST, specifically.
Not addressed:
Pass the FIBER Act to allow counties and municipalities to build out broadband infrastructure and then lease it to a private provider, ensuring equal access to emergency public benefits as enrollment and eligibility processes move online.

$1 M to the Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) to install extended reach mobile Wi-Fi gateway router devices in school buses.

$11 M to NC DPI to provide community and home mobile Internet access points. *Funds must be used only for the purchase of devices and not for subscription services.*

FOOD ACCESS

$6 M to Feeding Carolinas and the state farmer’s markets to ensure food banks can meet increased need.

Remove the prohibition for the NCGA to pursue a waiver of SNAP requirements in times of economic distress. *Federal emergency declaration rendered this unnecessary.*

Expand suspension of SNAP work requirements during the emergency period to recipients who were scheduled to be removed from the program before April 1st. *This was no longer viable by the start of the legislative session.*

FOOD ACCESS

$6 M to the Department of Health and Human Services to allocate equally among each of the six food banks in this State. The food banks are encouraged to use the funds allocated in this subdivision to purchase food from North Carolina–based farmers and vendors.

FOSTER CARE

Direct NCDHHS to pursue every federally available waiver and program allowance regarding child welfare, and to communicate these changes with urgency and clarity to county agencies and provider programs. Waivers including (but not limited to):
- Virtual visitation for children in foster care,
- Temporary suspension of relicensing requirements for foster parents, and

FOSTER CARE

Affirmation of NCGA support for pursuing any federally available waiver or program allowance regarding child welfare, including, but not limited to:
- Waivers regarding virtual visitation for children in foster care,
- Temporary suspension of relicensing requirements for foster parents, and
- Continuation of Board payments for youth in foster care 18-21 regardless of education and employment requirements.

Allocate direct cash assistance for foster families who may be unemployed or unable to work due to school closures.

Not addressed:

Allocate funding to enable virtual child welfare visitation and virtual court hearings, including tools for social workers, children and families (including foster families).

- Continuation of payments for youth in foster care ages 18-21 years, regardless of education or employment requirements.

$2.25 M to NCDHHS, Division of Social Services, to be used for monthly supplemental payments of $100 for each child receiving foster care assistance payments for the months of April 2020 through June 2020.

$290 K for the LINKS program, a foster care support program for youth ages 13-21, to support youth who need assistance with housing or transitional costs due to the COVID-19 emergency.

- $250K are earmarked for LINKS Transitional Living Service.
- $40K are earmarked for LINKS Transitional Housing.

Temporary waiver of fingerprinting requirement for adoptions, foster care, or child care institutions.

Left out because they were not issues listed in our letter to the NCGA:
Funds to various colleges/universities for vaccine research, small business loans, funding for school nutrition programs, and general public health equipment funding related to COVID-19.