

ARC

8B



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Lori A. Weaver  
Commissioner  
  
Jeff Fleischer  
Director

129 PLEASANT STREET, CONCORD, NH 03301-3857  
603-271-4451 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 4451  
Fax: 603-271-4729 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964 www.dhhs.nh.gov

September 26, 2023

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
and the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Pursuant to RSA 21-I:54, and contingent upon Governor and Council approval of the corresponding accept and expend request in the amount of \$87,087, authorize the Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), Bureau of Community, Family & Program Support to continue one full-time temporary Program Specialist IV, Position 8T3129, salary grade 25 effective October 5, 2023, upon Governor and Council approval through October 5, 2024. 100% Federal Funds.

Funding is available in account Promoting Safe-Stable Families as follows:

		<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>
05-95-42-421010-29730000-050-500109	Part-Time Salaries	\$ 59,180	\$ 22,239
05-95-42-421010-29730000-060-500601	Benefits	\$ 33,583	\$ 4,781
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 92,763</b>	<b>\$ 27,020</b>

**EXPLANATION**

This position currently ends on October 5, 2023, and is assigned to the Bureau of Community, Family & Program Support. This position oversees the Kinship Program that will solely focus on kin and fictive kin caregivers who provide placement for youth entering DCYF care. The bureau is currently developing an RFP to solicit services to locate, license and support kinship caregivers. Through this RFP, DCYF is making kinship placements a priority and placement into a foster home secondary. There is current legislation, Senate Bill 430, that identifies a Kinship Care Home to be considered a type of foster home licensed exclusively for kin and/or fictive kin. This legislation will allow DCYF to honor kinship caregivers for the specific work they do, providing care for kin while having a different licensing track as a general foster home does, but still becoming eligible to receive a foster care stipend. This being a newly developed program for DCYF that will require active contract management, collaboration with other bureaus within DHHS and advocacy for kinship caregivers, there needs to be a full time position dedicated to do so. This position will be responsible for program planning, development and evaluation through the use of data. This position will also be responsible for developing policy pertaining to kinship as well as the implementation of practice procedures. Studies show that children who are placed with family or in a familiar setting with fictive kin are exposed to less trauma and have an increased likelihood of achieving timely permanency, which results in positive outcomes for the youth DCYF serves.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori A. Weaver  
Commissioner