



## SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: July 28, 2014**

**CONTACT: Karen Heffner, [karen@catawbacountync.gov](mailto:karen@catawbacountync.gov), or 828-695-5625**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR CATAWBA COUNTY WORK FIRST ELECTING COUNTY PLAN**

HICKORY -- Public comments will be accepted for Catawba County's Work First Electing County Plan from Aug. 11 through Aug. 15, 2014. This plan is for the period October 2016 through September 2019.

The plan will be posted on the Catawba County Social Services website at <http://www.catawbacounty.nc/dss>. You may also review the plan at Catawba County Social Services, 3030 11th Ave. Dr. SE, Hickory, behind Catawba Valley Medical Center. Any comments or questions should be directed to Karen Heffner, Work First supervisor, at 828-695-5625 or [karen@catawbacountync.gov](mailto:karen@catawbacountync.gov).

"This plan has involved a lot of hard work and collaboration," Heffner said. "It is comprised of input from the planning committee members, agency staff, and from county consumers and citizens. I believe we have developed a plan that will be beneficial to the citizens of Catawba County."

All North Carolina counties have flexibility in developing services and programs to train and enable Work First families to move from welfare dependency to economic self-sufficiency. A few counties are "Electing Counties," meaning they have additional flexibility to establish the fundamental eligibility requirements for the provision of cash assistance for their citizens. Electing Counties also have greater control over their state allocation of Work First funds.

On July 21, the Catawba County Commissioners voted that Catawba County would continue being an Electing County. At that time, the commissioners appointed a planning committee to oversee the project.

Following public review, the plan will go to the County Commissioners for final approval before being sent to the state. The deadline for submission to the state is Sept. 30, 2014.

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