



# CATAWBA COUNTY

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Department of Social Services

## PRESS RELEASE/PSA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2008

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### **Catawba County Social Services Releases Work First Electing Plan 2009-2011 for Public Review**

The Work First Planning Committee and the Board of Catawba County Social Services has released for public review the proposed Work First Electing County Plan for the two year period beginning October 2009 through September 2011.

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 will be chosen to be 'Electing Counties'. Electing Counties are given 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 September 2, 2008 the Catawba County Commissioners voted that Catawba County would pursue Electing County status. At that time, the commissioners appointed a planning committee to oversee the project.

The public review period for the Electing County plan runs from September 22 through September 26, 2008. A copy of the Electing Plan is available at the Catawba County JobLink Career Center on East Campus of Catawba Valley Community College. A copy is also available at the Department of Social Services and on the Department's website.

Following public review, the plan will go to the County Commissioners for final approval before being sent to the State. The deadline for submission is October 31, 2008.

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

For more information, contact Social Services at (828) 695-5749 or visit [www.catawbacountync.gov/dss](http://www.catawbacountync.gov/dss).

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