



CATAWBA COUNTY

P.O. BOX 669 Newton, North Carolina 28658-0669 (828) 695-5600 Catawba County Social Services

CATAWBA COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES RELEASES WORK FIRST ELECTING PLAN 2012-2014 FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

HICKORY — The Work First Planning Committee and the Board of Catawba County Social Services have released for public review the proposed Work First Electing County Plan for the two-year period beginning October 2012 through September 2014.

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 continue 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 July 11, 2011, 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. The public review period for the Electing County plan runs from Aug. 8, 2011 through Aug. 12, 2011. A copy of the Electing Plan is available at the Employment Security Commission. 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 Commission for final approval before being sent to the state. The deadline for submission is Sept. 30, 2011.

“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, Work First supervisor. “I believe we have developed a plan that will be beneficial to the citizens of Catawba County.”

For more information, you may contact Karen Heffner, Work First Supervisor, at 828-695-5625 or Karen@catawbacountync.gov