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HEALTHY START INITIATIVE

State Project/Program: HEALTHY START BABY LOVE PLUS COMMUNITIES

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Federal Authorization: PHS Title III, Section 301, 42USC241 P.L. 104-208 SSA Title V, Section 502 (A) 42 USC702 P.L. 107 - 116

State Authorization: N/A

**N. C. Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health**

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SFY 2026 audit confirmation reports for payments made to Counties, Local Management Entities (LMEs), Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), Boards of Education, Councils of Government, District Health Departments and DHR Grant Subrecipients will be available by mid-October at the following web address:
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/about/administrative-offices/office-controller/audit-confirmation-reports>. At this site, click on the link entitled “Audit Confirmation Reports (State Fiscal Year 2025-2026). Additionally, audit confirmation reports for Nongovernmental entities receiving financial assistance from DHHS are found at the same website except select “Non-Governmental Audit Confirmation Reports (State Fiscal Years Oct’ 2023-2026).

The auditor should not consider the Supplement to be “safe harbor” for identifying audit procedures to apply in a particular engagement, but the auditor should be prepared to justify departures from the suggested procedures. The auditor can consider the supplement a “safe harbor” for identification of compliance requirements to be tested if the auditor performs reasonable procedures to ensure that the requirements in the Supplement are current.

The grantor agency may elect to review audit working papers to determine that audit tests are adequate.

Auditors may request documentation of monitoring visits by the State Agencies.

This State compliance supplement must be used in conjunction with the OMB 2026 Compliance Supplement which is scheduled to be issued in May 2026. The OMB supplement will include “Part 3 - Compliance Requirements,” for the types that apply, and “Part 6 - Internal Control.” If a federal Agency issued guidance for a specific program, this will be included in “Part 4 - Agency Program”. The OMB Compliance Supplement is Section A of the State Compliance Supplement.

I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the North Carolina Baby Love Plus Program (NC BLP) is to improve birth outcomes and the health of women of childbearing age through strengthening the perinatal systems of care, building family resilience, promoting quality services, and increasing community capacity to address perinatal disparity. The NC BLP program will provide case management and home visiting services to preconception, pregnant and interconception women and their children up to 18 months after birth as well to the fathers/partners associated with the women and/or children.

II. PROGRAM PROCEDURES

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)/Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) Healthy Start program aims to reduce disparities in infant mortality and adverse perinatal outcomes by:

- 1) improving women's health,
- 2) improve family health and wellness,
- 3) promote systems change, and
- 4) assure impact and effectiveness.

Healthy Start (HS) grants are provided to communities with rates of infant mortality at least 1½ times the U.S. national average and high rates for other adverse perinatal outcomes (e.g., low birth weight, preterm birth, maternal morbidity and mortality) to address the needs of high-risk women and their families before, during, and after pregnancy. Healthy Start seeks to improve health outcomes and reduce racial and ethnic disparities in perinatal health by using community-based approaches to service delivery, and to increase access to comprehensive health and social services for women, infants, and their families. HS services begin in the prenatal period and follow the woman and child through 18 months after the end of the pregnancy. In May 2024, the WICSW was funded for a new five-year grant period (May 1, 2024 - March 31, 2029) to implement the restructured NC Baby Love Plus Program that will serve three counties of Edgecombe, Halifax and Pitt.

Since 1997, the Women, Infant, and Community Wellness Section, formerly known as the Women's and Children's Health Section-Women's Health Branch (WCHS/WHB), has been the home of three federally funded Healthy Start programs - NC Eastern Baby Love Plus (1997), Northeastern Baby Love Plus (1999), and Triad Baby Love Plus (1999) which served 14 counties. The purpose of this program was to improve perinatal health outcomes and reduce racial and ethnic disparities by using innovative, community and evidence-based approaches to service delivery. These efforts facilitated access to comprehensive health and social services for women, infants, and their families. In April 2019, the Women, Infant, and Community Wellness Section received funding for a five-year period (April 2019 – March 2024) for a restructured NC Baby Love Plus program that will serve the four counties of Edgecombe, Halifax, Nash, and Pitt to address preconception health including reproductive life planning, prenatal health, interconception care and case management and support to fathers/male partners.

NC BLP collaborates with North Carolina's Care Management for High-Risk Pregnancy (CMHRP) program, formerly Pregnancy Care Management, as a primary referral source for enrolling pregnant women into the NC BLP program. CMHRP is designed to assess a medically high-risk pregnant mother's needs, design an individualized care plan and refer her to clinical, mental and behavioral health, nutritional counseling, and other services available locally.

Interconceptional Care Coordination/Case Management services focus on the reduction of psychosocial, medical, and environmental factors that impact the health and well-being of women for 18 months after birth. Examples of factors addressed include a previous poor birth outcome, history of perinatal depression, chronic conditions including obesity,

substance use during pregnancy, and intimate partner violence. A Family Care Coordinator provides case management services to participants during pregnancy and the 18-month interconceptional period. A Family Outreach Worker (FOW) will conduct outreach and educate women and men about preconception health, health promotion, and related issues. This same individual will carry out efforts to support program participant retention in NC Baby Love Plus services as well as the perinatal health system of care. The FOW will also conduct health promotion and support group sessions using an evidence-based curriculum. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) will work with program participants who are in need of behavioral health support. The LCSW, utilizing a combination of evidenced-based tools and clinical interviewing skills, will complete a clinical assessment, diagnose, and treat a client’s mental and/or behavioral health issues employing appropriate, evidenced-based psychotherapy treatment models, develop an individualized treatment and discharge plan.

The NC BLP program will also provide case management and group education and support sessions on a variety of health and wellness and parenting topics using evidence-based curriculum and a tool kit to fathers/male partners of NC BLP program participants. Fathers and male partners will be encouraged to engage in case management, group education and support sessions offered by Family Care Coordinators and Family Outreach Workers with a focus on self- sufficiency.

Statewide and Local Action Networks are formed to increase community and agency coordination and collaboration to build programs that reflect the needs and values of the community. The NC Baby Love Plus Program is administered by the Division of Public Health, Women, Infant and Community Wellness Section.

III. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Noted below in the following matrix are the types of compliance requirements (Types) for this federal program identified by either the federal or State agency with a “Y” that are subject to the audit. The auditor must determine if the Type noted by “Y” has a direct and material effect on the federal program for the auditee. If the Type is determined to be subject to audit, the auditor must use the OMB 2026 Compliance Supplement, Part 3 and Part 4 (if an OMB supplement is issued) in addition to this State supplement to perform the audit.

If the State determines that the federal requirement does not require testing at the local level or if the State modifies the federal requirements, this is discussed in the supplement under the type of compliance requirement. Auditors are not expected to test requirements that have been noted with an “N.”

A	B	C	E	F	G	H	I	J	L	M	N
Activities Allowed or Unallowed	Allowable Costs/Cost Principles	Cash Management	Eligibility	Equipment/ Real Property Management	Matching, Level of Effort, Earmarking	Period Of Performance	Procurement Suspension & Debarment	Program Income	Reporting	Subrecipient Monitoring	Special Tests and Provisions
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y

A. Activities Allowed or Unallowed

Contractors, which include local health departments and private, non-profit organizations, are to complete activities as noted on their contract addenda/scope of work. Each scope of work is different based upon the needs of the specific area served. See individual contract scopes of work for more information.

B. Allowable Costs/Cost Principles

All grantees that expend State funds (including federal funds passed through the N. C. Department of Health and Human Services) are required to comply with the cost principles described in the N. C. Administrative Code at 09 NCAC 03M .0201.

C. Cash Management

This is a requirement in the Title 2 Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter I, Chapter II, Part 200 federal supplement. However, the State retains responsibility for this requirement and thus chooses not to pass it along to any of its subrecipients.

E. Eligibility

Per the federal Healthy Start grant application, the restructured NC Baby Love Plus program serves families (with specific emphasis on African American and American Indian women of childbearing age) in these three counties: Edgecombe, Halifax, and Pitt. This includes women of childbearing age (mainly 15-44 years), children 18 months and younger, fathers/male partners and their families.

Healthy Start Baby Love Plus agencies shall impose no charges on clients for services.

F. Equipment and Real Property Management

Equipment must be accounted for in accordance with the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer Policies Manual, Chapter 20, Fixed Assets Policy.

Title to equipment costing more than \$2,500.00 acquired by the Contractor with funds from this contract shall vest in the contractor, subject to the following conditions:

1. The Contractor shall use the equipment in the project or program for which it was acquired as long as needed. When equipment is no longer needed for the original project or program or if operations are discontinued, the Contractor shall contact the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, for written instructions regarding disposition of equipment.
2. When acquiring replacement equipment, the Contractor may use the equipment to be replaced as trade-in against replacement equipment or may sell said equipment and use the proceeds to offset the costs of replacement equipment subject to written approval of the Division of Public Health.
3. For equipment costing more than \$2,500.00, equipment controls and procedures shall include at a minimum the following:
 - a) Detailed equipment records shall be maintained which accurately include the:
 - i. Description and location of the equipment, serial number, acquisition date/cost, useful life and depreciation rate;
 - ii. Source/percentage of funding for purchase and restrictions as to use or disposition
 - iii. Disposition data, which includes date of disposal and sales price, or method used to determine fair market value.

- b) Equipment shall be assigned a control number in the accounting records and shall be tagged individually with a permanent identification number.
 - c) Biennially, a physical inventory of equipment shall be taken and results compared to accounting and fixed asset records. Any discrepancy shall immediately be brought to the attention of management and the governing board.
 - d) A control system shall be in place to ensure adequate safeguards to prevent loss, damage, or theft of equipment and shall provide for full documentation and investigation of any loss or theft.
 - e) Adequate maintenance procedures shall be implemented to ensure that equipment is maintained in good condition.
 - f) Procedures shall be implemented which ensure that adequate insurance coverage is maintained on all equipment. A review of coverage amounts shall be conducted on a periodic basis, preferably at least annually.
4. The Contractor shall ensure all subcontractors are notified of their responsibility to comply with the equipment conditions specified in this section.

Prior written approval from the Department must be obtained before purchasing equipment valued over \$2,500.00. Institutions of higher education, hospitals and other non-profit organizations shall use procurement procedures that conform to applicable federal law and regulations and standards identified in Title 2 Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter I, Chapter II, Part 200. All non-federal entities shall follow federal laws and implementing regulations applicable to procurements, as noted in Title 2 Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter I, Chapter II, Part 200.

I. Procurement and Suspension and Debarment

All grantees that expend federal funds (received either directly from a federal agency or passed through the N. C. Department of Health and Human Services) are required to conform with federal agency codifications of the grants management common rule accessible on the Internet at https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl.

All grantees that expend State funds (including federal funds passed through the N. C. Department of Health and Human Services) are required to comply with the procurement standards described in the North Carolina General Statutes and the North Carolina Administrative Code, which are identified in the State of North Carolina Procurement Manual accessible on the Internet at http://www.pandc.nc.gov/documents/Procurement_Manual_5_8_2013_interactive.pdf

Nongovernmental subrecipients shall maintain written Procurement policies that are followed in procuring the goods and services required to administer the program. This applies to the subrecipients of this supplement.

Entities are prohibited from contracting with or making subawards under covered transactions to parties that are suspended or debarred or whose principals are suspended or debarred.

L. Reporting

Financial Reporting

Monthly expenditure reports (DHHS 2481) are required to be completed for payment. The Contractor shall submit to the Division a monthly reimbursement request and, upon approval by the Division, receive payment within 30 days. The original expenditure report, DHHS 2481, shall be submitted to the Division Contract Administrator. The Contractor shall have up to thirty (30) days from last day of contract for close out, completion and submission of the final monthly expenditure report related to this contract period. If this contract is terminated, the Contractor is required to complete a final accounting report and to return any unearned funds to the Division within 60 days of the contract termination date. In addition, local health departments are required to submit quarterly expenditure reports to the program. All payments are contingent upon fund availability.

Performance Reporting

Local health departments are required to ensure that NC Baby Love Plus program staff complete participant information using the appropriate Healthy Start Data Collection tools and enter data into the ChallengerSoft Case Management Database by the 5th day of the following month. In addition, local health departments shall prepare and electronically submit quarterly programmatic reports for the prior quarter using the NC Baby Love Plus Quarterly Reporting Template to the NC BLP Program Supervisor no later than the 15th day of September, December, March, and June.

M. Subrecipient Monitoring

Local health departments and other entities frequently contract with other agencies to provide allowable services. Unless services are obtained on other than fee for service contracts, the auditor does not need to audit for this requirement. (Reference Section C(1)(c and d) of the Consolidated Agreement between the local health department and the Division of Public Health).

N. Special Tests and Provisions

Conflict of Interest and Certification Regarding No Overdue Tax Debts

All non-State entities (except those entities subject to the audit and other reporting requirements of the Local Government Commission) that receive, use or expend State funds (including federal funds passed through the N. C. Department of Health and Human

Services) are subject to the financial reporting requirements of G. S. 143C-6-23 for fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2007. These requirements include the submission of a Conflict-of-Interest Policy (see G. S. 143C-6-23(b)) and a written statement (if applicable) completed by the grantee's board of directors or other governing body that the entity does not have any overdue tax debts as defined by G. S. 105-243.1 at the federal, State or local level (see G. S. 143C-6-23(c)). All non-State entities that provide State funding to a non- State entity (except any non-State entity subject to the audit and other reporting requirements of the Local Government Commission) must hold the subgrantee accountable for the legal and appropriate expenditure of those State grant funds.

Audit Objective – Determine whether the grantee has adopted and has on file a conflict- of-interest policy, before receiving and disbursing State funds.

Suggested Audit Procedures:

1. Ascertain that the grantee has a conflict-of-interest policy.
2. Check the policy and verify through board minutes that the policy was adopted before the grantee received and disbursed State funds.