



## NEWS

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CATAWBA COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT

HICKORY -- What programs constitute the largest percentage of Catawba County Social Services Budget? How many citizens receive Medicaid and Food Assistance? How many children were adopted last year and how many are currently in foster care? How many reports for adult protective services and child protective services were made?

These and other facts are available in the recently released annual report of Catawba County Social Services. The document covers Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (July 2013 through June 2014).

The number of people receiving Medicaid in Catawba County has increased from 33,919 in Fiscal Year 2008-2009 to 37,526 in FY 2013-2014. There are currently more than 200 children in foster care in the county. The number of children and adolescents receiving behavioral health care from Family NET was 1,494. The average number of people receiving food assistance during the fiscal year was 28,335.

The report also includes the fact that 119,726 meals were served to 1,539 county residents who are 60 or older through the county's Senior Nutrition Programs, which include Meals on Wheels, Seniors Morning Out, Frozen Meals, and Boost or Ensure supplements. In addition, the Backpack Program, a community program coordinated by Social Services, provided 273,000 meals to 1,200 children during the fiscal year.

"Although most people are familiar with our Medicaid and Food and Nutrition Services (Food Stamps), we manage many other programs that benefit county residents," said John Eller, director of Social Services. "These include the collection of child support payments for parents who receive Social Services benefits, and day care subsidies that allow many residents to work or train for work while their children are being cared for in licensed facilities. Also, while most people are aware of Child Protective Services, they may not know about our Adult Protective Services for disabled adults."

Eller continued, "We are proud of all our employees, who work hard every day to help our most vulnerable citizens." Social Services is guided by its mission statement, "to strengthen, with dignity and respect, the quality of life for all citizens through supportive services and advocacy."

The annual report is available online at [catawbacountync.gov/dss](http://catawbacountync.gov/dss) by clicking on the annual report graphic on the left side of the page.

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