

February 2, 1998

MEMORANDUM

To: Departments of Social Services Directors  
Employment Security Commission Managers  
Community College Presidents

From: David Clegg, N.C. Employment Security Commission  
Kevin FitzGerald, N.C. Division of Social Services  
Elizabeth Johns, N.C. Community College System

Re: First Stop Employment Assistance Program

Today, North Carolina launches a new program designed to enhance our state's efforts to help welfare recipients obtain and keep employment.

The First Stop Employment Assistance Program, passed by the General Assembly in its 1997 session, requires every non-exempt person who applies for family assistance through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (Work First) to register for employment through the Employment Security Commission before their benefits will be approved.

In addition, First Stop services provided in a county may include intensive job search, job preparedness training and community service work activities.

First Stop provides ESC, local departments of social services and community colleges, as well as other partner agencies, a real opportunity to continue doing what many of you have already begun to do -- work collaboratively to provide a hand up to our most needy families.

We urge you to contact each other in the next few days to ensure that First Stop is well-coordinated and successful, to continue to meet regularly to discuss the progress of this program, and to find additional ways for working together to serve our citizens.

Please share this memorandum with the appropriate persons in your agency.

c: Senior Continuing Education Administrators

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