

In the past year....

- The agency, along with the Caldwell County Health Department, moved into the new Human Services Building in December 2008.



- Celebration of Life** celebrated its 38th anniversary and attracted 580 older adults to the Caldwell County Fairgrounds on May 9, 2008.
- The **Adoption Team** finalized forty-six (46) adoptions.
- Nine (9) new foster homes were licensed.
- The **Food Assistance Team** received 97.08% Accuracy Award from State Division of Social Services.



- Work First Family Assistance** ranked in the top ten counties in the State for three months of 2008 with two of these months ranked at 4th for the highest All-Parent Participation Rate.
- Caldwell County had 80 children enter **Foster Care** in 2008 which is a 15% decrease from 2007 where 95 children entered care. At the end of 2008, there were 140 children in DSS custody, a 22% decrease from 12-2007 where there were 179 children in care.

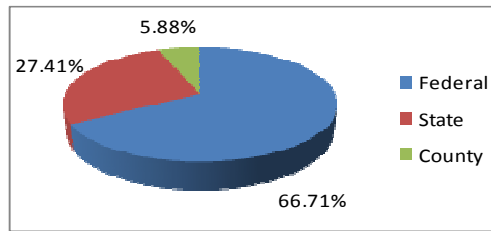
FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008

Where the Money Comes From...

Funds for our services and programs come from several different sources. Reimbursement by the state or federal government to Caldwell County varies from program to program, from 100 % reimbursement to 100 % county funding.

SOURCE	SHARE
FEDERAL	\$77,944,639
STATE	\$32,032,300
COUNTY	\$ 6,867,671
TOTAL	\$116,844,610

NOTE: "County funds" included more than **\$61,484** in donations from individuals, groups, and businesses in the community.

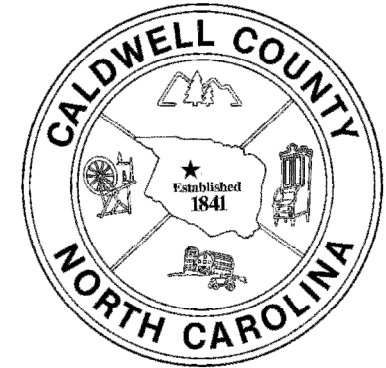


Where the Money Goes...

More than 93 % of our funds are spent in the form of direct benefits to clients, rather than administrative costs.

Medicaid	\$89,035,198	76.19%
Food Stamps	\$11,587,239	9.91%
Administration	\$ 7,278,562	6.23%
Child (Day) Care Assist.	\$ 4,056,867	3.48%
Rest Home (Spec. Assist.)	\$ 1,359,423	1.16%
Foster Care	\$ 2,781,968	2.38%
Work First	\$ 213,479	0.19%
Energy/Crisis	\$ 531,874	0.46%
TOTAL	\$116,844,610	100.00%

Caldwell County Department of Social Services



Annual Report for 2008

Board of Social Services:

Frances K. Fox, Chair
 Metaleen Thomas, Vice-Chair
 Mattie Patterson
 Ronald Roukema
 Alden E. Starnes

Joyce P. Edwards, Director

2345 Morganton Blvd., S.W. Suite A,
 Post Office Box 200
 Lenoir, North Carolina 28645
 Telephone: (828) 426-8200
 Fax: (828) 426-8398
www.caldwellcountync.org/depart/dss/

**Promoting Prosperity, Safety,
 Permanence and Well-Being**

Mission Statement

The mission of the Caldwell County Department of Social Services is two-fold:

- (1) To help families and individuals optimize their self-reliance and self-sufficiency, and
- (2) To protect vulnerable people -- particularly children, older adults, and the disabled -- from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Accomplishing the Mission:

Selected Highlights

Child Protective Services (CPS)

Investigates allegations of child abuse, neglect, and dependency.

- Total Reports Investigated
2008: 829
2007: 920
- Total Number of Children Involved
2008: 1,682
2007: 1,892

Foster Care

Provides temporary homes for children who have been victims of abuse, neglect, or dependency.

- Total Number of Children in Custody by Court order
End of 2008: 140
End of 2007: 179
- Foster Homes Newly Licensed
2008: 9
2007: 21

Adoption

Helps children whose parents are incapable of assuming or continuing parental responsibilities to become part of a new family.

- Total Number of Children Legally Cleared for Adoption
2008: 24
2007: 17
- Total Number of Adoptions Finalized
2008: 46
2007: 46

Adolescent Parenting Program (APP)

Helps teenage moms and moms-to-be prevent second pregnancies, complete education, prevent child abuse/neglect, and gain vital skills. [continued]

- Active APP Participants (Monthly Average)
2008: 14
2007: 15
- Participants who had a Second Pregnancy
2008: 1
2007: 2

Adult Protective Services (APS)

Investigates allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elderly/disabled adults.

- Total Reports Investigated
2008: 157
2007: 175
- Clients Served (Monthly Average)
2008: 13
2007: 18

Community Alternatives Program (CAP)

Enables clients to remain in their own homes rather than being placed in nursing facilities.

- Clients Served (Monthly Average)
2008: 169
2007: 186

Child Care Assistance

Helps families find and pay for affordable, quality child day care, allowing parents to work or receive training.

- Children Being Served (Monthly Average)
2008: 1,115
2007: 1,393
- Subsidized Child Care Providers (Monthly Average)
2008: 100
2007: 105

Child Support Enforcement

Helps children in non-custodial parent families obtain the financial support to which they are entitled.

- Total Amount Collected for Children
2008: \$6,803,651.60
2007: \$6,639,548.00
- Number of Ongoing Cases (Monthly Average)
2008: 3,973
2007: 3,954

Work First Family Assistance (WFFA)

Helps families become self-sufficient by finding employment while providing short-term financial assistance. [continued]

- Active Cases (Monthly Average)
2008: 68
2007: 88
- Clients Who Obtained Jobs
2008: 38
2007: 55

Food Stamps/Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT)

Supplements the food buying power of eligible families.

- Individuals Served (Monthly Average)
2008: 10,301
2007: 11,939
- Benefits Issued per month (Average)
2008: \$1,081,048.00
2007: \$ 916,703.00

Note: Benefits stay almost entirely in Caldwell County's economy when clients use EBT cards at local businesses. Food Stamps cannot be used to buy non-food items, alcohol, or tobacco products.

Medicaid (Medical Assistance)

Pays medical expenses for eligible low-income individuals who cannot afford health care.

- Adult Medicaid Applications Taken per month (Average)
2008: 120
2007: 115
- Family Medicaid Applications Taken per month (Average)
2008: 627
2007: 652

Program Integrity

Investigates reports of fraudulent overpayment in eligibility programs.

- New Cases
2008: 93
2007: 191
- Fraudulent Benefits Recovered
2008: \$176,828.24
2007: \$181,055.28

Customer Service

- Youth Work Permits Issued
2008: 576
2007: 1,238
- Phone Calls Received by Switchboard
2008: 128,932
2007: 191,033